

## **COVID-19 Update – April 6, 2020**

**NJ new positives – 3,663; new deaths – 86 (15 at Long Term Care facilities)**

**Statewide totals: 41,090 positives and 1,003 deaths**

**Atlantic County: 13 new positives; 1 death to date; 140 cases countywide and 8 more cleared as recovered for total of 19**

**Breakdown by Municipality:** (this is not reported to public or media by Public Health)

Absecon – 1; Buena – 1; Egg Harbor City – 1; EHT – 3; Galloway – 3; Hammonton – 1; Linwood – 1; Pleasantville - 2

### **Previously reported:**

Absecon – 6; Atlantic City – 23; Brigantine – 2; Buena – 6; Egg Harbor City – 2; EHT – 22; and 1 death; Galloway – 15; Hamilton – 12; Hammonton – 6; Linwood – 5; Longport – 2; Margate – 1; Northfield – 1; Pleasantville – 10; Somers Point – 4; Ventnor – 9; Weymouth – 1

### **From Weekend:**

Adding hospital bed capacity by building out field hospitals, using hotels and college dorms, opening closed hospital facilities

Federal government broke up a scam that involved hoarding PPE – 70,000 N95 masks and 5,000 gloves

Uber Eats is contributing 14,000 meals to healthcare workers across the state

Governor is grateful to the many thousands of volunteers

Funeral homes are running out of body bags

State does not approve of churches holding mass in cars and using the radio as their audio device.

### **NJDOH:**

CDC issued guidance regarding use of cloth face coverings to prevent asymptomatic people from spreading virus to others; but social distancing still best defense

Long Term Care – lack of communication with families when there is a positive COVID-19 case; Commissioner will send guidance to nursing homes; All residents, staff and families/guardians should be notified within 3 days

State predicted hospitals in North Jersey would see a surge in mid-April to mid-May; 9 hospitals on divert last Friday night due to lack of critical care beds and staff issues; 4,000 positives were in hospitals

Compliance – still dealing with groups and businesses that ignore executive orders and those who claim to be infected and spit on police and others

Unemployment – 362,000 applications as of April 3; Dept. of Labor is increasing capacity of phones and computers with purchase of newer models and more staff

Unemployment benefits generally received within 2-3 weeks if there are no difficulties

Federal government will be paying \$600 per week (UI) in addition to regular unemployment check. There is also a 13-week extension of regular benefits.

Corrections Officers don't have enough PPE for state facilities – similar to nursing homes. Communal dining moved to 6-ft. apart. Officers to wear masks.

Hotels/dorms – will be used to house medical volunteers in North Jersey so they can be deployed to Meadowlands Field Hospital and area hospitals as needed.

Governor does not plan to back off gathering restrictions. Understands the difficulties with weddings, funerals, etc. but these are life-saving measures.

State departments have plans in place. Still feeding people and providing essential services.

Symptomatic inmates/staff at jails can get tested

State has been regionalized – North, Central, South. If cases begin to escalate in South Jersey, state is ready to assist.

Governor believes flexibility in federal funding such as CDBG will provide better use of funds

If China can provide PPE, state will purchase; already have reps there trying to obtain PPE

## **April 6, 2020**

State is also looking for PPE in Israel, Philippines, Taiwan

State received 500 more ventilators

State will extend FEMA support at Bergen and Monmouth test facilities through May 31

State asked for beds on the Comfort ship. President confirmed the use of beds, if needed.

CARES Act provides unemployment insurance, resources to small businesses, direct cash payments to residents (80% of New Jerseyans are eligible), should start week of April 13; there are funding opportunities for private, non-profits; discussions at federal level for next stimulus package including expansion of enrollment period for residents

Good news – while the number of cases continues to increase, as was expected with more testing, the growth rate has slowed from 24% on March 30 to 12.18% on April 6.

EVERYONE must continue to adhere to social distancing for our best chance to flatten the curve.