

# COVID-19 Newsletter

City of Atlantic City



## Gov. Murphy's New Announcements

July 12, 2020

This week, Governor Phil Murphy continued to announce businesses and activities that are authorized to resume as New Jersey entered Stage 2 on June 15.

Face coverings are now **REQUIRED** in outdoor public spaces when social distancing is not practicable.

Exceptions for individuals:

- Under two years old
- Eating/drinking at an outdoor dining establishment
- When wearing a mask would inhibit health or safety

### STAGE 2:

Phased-in businesses and activities, with adherence to

safeguarding and modification guidelines, include:

Effective immediately-

- Restaurants with fixed roofs that have two open sides comprising over 50% of the total wall space will be considered outdoors, in light of the air flow.
- Youth summer camps.
- NJ Transit rail and light rail service will return to full weekday schedules.
- Graduation ceremonies with social distancing guidelines in place.
- In-person summer education.

Residents returning or visitors coming to NJ from the following

states are advised to observe a 14-day self-quarantine period:

- Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.

If you need help finding a safe place to self-quarantine, please call your local health department or NJ 2-1-1.

## NJMVC Reopens/Extension for Documents

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) has reopened vehicle and licensing centers and returned to regular operating hours. They have provided an automatic additional extension for licenses/identifications, registrations, inspections, and temporary tags. For documents that expired

between March 13 and May 31 they have now been extended to September 30. If expiring between June 1 and August 31, they have been extended to December 31.

Before going to your local NJMVC center, ensure that you cannot complete your transaction online. Lines at centers are very

long and the wait is lengthy. All customers are required to wear face coverings when visiting an agency.

For the latest information and updates, Visit <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/>.

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## Energy Assistance for Eligible SJ Gas Customers

South Jersey Gas wants to remind customers that there are several federal and state assistance programs available to help manage energy costs.

Federal and state assistance programs available to eligible South Jersey Gas customers include:

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides federally funded energy assistance to help low- and fixed-income families meet their energy needs. LIHEAP offers an added emergency crisis benefit component, offering eligible applicants an additional monetary benefit of up to \$600 to maintain or restore service. LIHEAP and its ancillary emergency grant are accepting applications through July 31, 2020.

The Universal Service Fund (USF) state program helps make natural gas and electric bills more affordable for low-income households. Customers who apply for LIHEAP automatically submit for consideration of the USF grant.

The Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE) grant is an annual NJ assistance program designed to assist low- to moderate-income households that are experiencing economic hardship and are struggling to pay their energy bills. The PAGE grant benefits homeowners and renters who are not currently receiving USF, are facing a crisis that includes a documented notice of overdue payment for gas and/or elective service and have a history of making regular payments toward their utility bills. Recipients may be eligible to receive up to \$1,500

towards their electric and gas bills. For more information, visit [www.njpoweron.org](http://www.njpoweron.org).

The NJ SHARES program provides a one-time grant to moderate- and fixed-income households experiencing a financial crisis that do not qualify for federal and state assistance programs due to the household's income. Customers can also elect to help their neighbors by contributing to NJ Shares. Grants can be up to \$700 for customers with natural gas as a heating source and must result in a continuance and/or restoration of service. For more information, visit [www.njsharesgreen.org](http://www.njsharesgreen.org).

For additional details on these programs including eligibility requirements, visit [www.southjerseygas.com/energyassistance](http://www.southjerseygas.com/energyassistance).

## Emergency Rental Assistance Program Extended

*Renters Can Submit Pre-Applications through 5PM Friday, July 17*

The application period for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (CVERAP) opened July 6 and will continue through July 17. The program will provide rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households that have experienced a substantial reduction in income as a result of the pandemic, including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Pre-applications can be submitted **ONLINE ONLY** at <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/NJ559-2809>. Paper CVERAP pre-applications will not be accepted. Pre-applications received from July 6 to July 17 will be entered into an online lottery. Submission of a CVERAP pre-application does not guarantee placement in the program. Households will be

selected from the overall pool of applicants through a randomized process based on eligibility and the lottery criteria.

Households may qualify for the lottery based on the following eligibility requirements:

- Have a gross annual household income that is at or below the program's maximum income limits for the county where they will be residing;
- Be a New Jersey resident and have a current lease in New Jersey;
- Be current on their rent as of March 2020. This program will not assist with arrears;
- Have a substantial reduction in income or be unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Have a lack of assets and savings to pay rent;
- Will pay a minimum of 30% of their income towards the rent; and
- Are not currently receiving a subsidy from another rental assistance program or living in public housing. Households receiving any other rental assistance are ineligible.

The CVERAP maximum income limits can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/cverap.html>.

Only one CVERAP pre-application per household will be accepted. People without internet access or disabled individuals who need a reasonable accommodation may contact the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Applicant Service at 609-292-4080, Option 1 or 8, for assistance.

## Curbside Pickup Service at AC Free Public Library

While the inside of the Atlantic City Free Public Library is closed to the public, the books, magazines, DVDs and CDs that fill the library are available to its members.

The library is offering a contactless Curbside Pickup Service at its Main Library location – allowing members an opportunity to borrow materials while maintaining a safe,

social distance.

Members can request specific materials or ask a staff member to pick items for them. A total of five items, two of which can be DVDs, are allowed to be checked out at once.

To request materials, members can log into their account and place a hold, call Curbside Service Hotline

at 609-345-6115 (Monday through Friday 9 AM-4:30 PM) or email [reflib@acfpl.org](mailto:reflib@acfpl.org).

Staff will call once the request is filled. There will be parking reserved next to the Main Library specifically for this service.

When picking up, members must wear a mask and provide the last four digits of their library card.

## COVID-19 Testing Sites Updated Schedule

The City of Atlantic City is offering free COVID-19 testing to symptomatic Atlantic City residents. Testing is by appointment only at two locations.

The walk-up testing site is located in the 800 block of Atlantic Avenue in the surface parking lot of the Showboat Hotel. This site is only open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The entry point is on Delaware Avenue. Individuals can be driven to the site, but those being tested must be able to walk through the testing area without assistance.

A drive-thru site is located in the area of the Surf Stadium located at 545 N. Albany Avenue. This site is only open on Thursdays.

The individual being tested does not have to be driving they can be a passenger. Occupants are to keep their windows up until instructed. The entry point is at the intersection of Albany and Filbert Avenues.

Reliance Medical Group, a primary healthcare provider based in Northfield, is conducting the medical testing.

Both sites are open from 10 AM to 1:45 PM. In order to be tested, the individual must:

- Have a COVID-19 test prescription from their doctor (if an individual is symptomatic and does not possess a prescription, a Reliance

physician on-site can provide the prescription),

- Read and accept the consent form (available in the appointment portal),
- Have an appointment,
- Have a copy of the appointment confirmation,
- Have identification proving the individual is an Atlantic City resident.
- For more information and to schedule an appointment, visit the City of Atlantic City website ([www.cityofatlanticcity.org](http://www.cityofatlanticcity.org)), click “COVID-19 Testing”, and follow the prompts. If further assistance is needed, call 609-318-6990.

## WorkFirst NJ Emergency Assistance Programs

WorkFirst NJ (WFNJ) clients may receive emergency assistance in certain situations. These benefits include essential food, clothing, shelter and household furnishings; temporary rental assistance or back rent or mortgage payments; utility payments; transportation to search for housing; and moving expenses.

Eligible persons include those who are homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless, and those who have experienced a substantial loss of housing, food, clothing or household furnishings due to fire, flood or similar disaster.

Emergency assistance is limited to

12 months. However, extensions may be granted under certain hardship conditions, with specific limitations.

WFNJ also provides temporary cash assistance and many other support services to families through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

New Jersey is one of only a few states that also provides cash benefits and support services to individuals and couples with no dependent children, through our General Assistance (GA) program. For more information, contact 609-348-3001 Ext. 2876 or visit

[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/workfirstnj/](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/workfirstnj/).

The Social Service for the Homeless (SSH) program assists Atlantic County residents who are at risk of homelessness, but are ineligible for TANF or GA welfare or Supplemental Security Income.



SSH funding is used solely to assist individuals and families who are experiencing *short term, non-recurring emergencies*. Applicants MUST meet select criteria. For more information visit <https://www.atlantic-county.org/family-community-development/homeless-services.asp>.


# Ways to Stay Informed

The City of Atlantic City is diligently working to keep everyone safe and healthy during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. All city employees are currently working a modified schedule allowing our employees to remain healthy. City Hall remains closed; however, employees are still available to provide needed service.

City of Atlantic City- 833.359.0084 / [www.cityofatlanticcity.org](http://www.cityofatlanticcity.org) /    @AtlanticCityGov

Atlantic City Police Department- 609.347.5780 / [www.acpolice.org](http://www.acpolice.org) /  @AtlanticCityPolice /   @AtlanticCityPD

Atlantic City Fire Department- 609.347.5590 /  @acfdlocal198 /  @AtlanticCityFD

Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management- 609.347.5466 /  @AtlanticCityOEM

Tip411- Receive email and/or text message alerts from the police department. Go to <https://www.tip411.com/groups> to begin the process.

Code Red Alert System- Receive information from your local emergency response team in the event of emergencies or critical community alerts. Go to [www.cityofatlanticcity.org](http://www.cityofatlanticcity.org) and locate the Code Red tab on the homepage to begin the process.

## 2020 Census

It is not too late to take the US Census 2020. Every resident of Atlantic City counts. By completing the census, you will assist in bringing federal aid and resources to Atlantic City to support services that directly affect the community, such as schools, roads, health clinics, fire departments, food assistance and more. You can complete the census by mail, phone or online. For additional information and to complete the census, visit <http://makeitcount2020.com/>.

## Message from Honorable Mayor Marty Small Sr.

As the City of Atlantic City continues to do everything possible to protect the health and well-being of our residents, I am asking that you continue to follow the guidelines established to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus: be sure to wash your hands thoroughly and frequently, wear a mask/face covering when in public, and be sure to sanitize and disinfect your surroundings. These simple guidelines will help protect you and your loved ones and friends.

Furthermore, I am also asking that you check on your neighbor to make sure they are okay. People are dealing with a lot during these stressful times and it is so important to show others that we care.

At this time, I would like to recognize and commend Governor Phil Murphy, who continues to do an excellent job to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. He has made some very difficult decisions and has been working 24/7 to mobilize efforts to help save and sustain lives. We continue to work with Governor Murphy and various state agencies to make sure Atlantic City is as safe as possible at this unprecedented time.

Once again, I am honored to salute our Frontline Heroes: emergency personnel, public safety and public works employees, City Hall staff, government workers, transportation/delivery personnel and food industry employees who unselfishly go to work each

and every day to help others. I am extremely proud to commend their dedicated and devoted service and sincerely thank them for a job well-done!

Remember, we are in this together, and together we will get through this!

Yours in service to the community,

Marty Small, Sr.

Mayor