

COVID-19 Newsletter

City of Atlantic City



Gov. Murphy's New Announcements

July 5, 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.

STAGE 2:

Phased-in businesses and activities, with adherence to safeguarding and modification guidelines, include:

Effective immediately-

- Indoor portions of retail shopping malls at 50% capacity.
- Casinos may reopen at 25% capacity.
- Outdoor amusement and water parks may reopen at 50% capacity.
- Playgrounds.

- Museums, aquariums, libraries, and indoor recreation facilities – including indoor bowling alleys, batting cages, shooting ranges, and the arcades along our boardwalks may reopen at 25% capacity.

- Crowd size for outdoor gatherings up to 500 people.

Beginning on July 6-

- Youth summer camps.
 - Camps must submit the Youth Camp Attestation Form to the Department of Health.
- NJ Transit rail and light rail service will return to full weekday schedules.

- Graduation ceremonies with social distancing guidelines in place

Residents returning or visitors coming to NJ from the following states are advised to observe at 14-day self-quarantine period:

- AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, IA, ID, LA, MS, NC, NV, SC, TN, TX, UT

The New Jersey Department of Education announced guidance that outlines the standards that every school district should expect to be conditional for reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. It also comes with the flexibility that individual districts will need to ensure an effective implementation strategy that meets their unique needs.

The order to allow indoor dining, which was expected to begin on June 2, was rescinded.

Restart & Recovery Group/Food Distribution

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver announced on June 22nd that an Atlantic City Restart and Recovery Working Group will be formed to examine critically Atlantic City's post-COVID economic recovery. This is one of many steps on a journey to reimagine and diversify business and industry in

Atlantic City and Atlantic County. The working group will be made up of members of the Atlantic City Executive Council and other key stakeholders. More information on the working group will be provided in the coming weeks as it becomes available.

The CRDA and their partners will be distributing food on Thursday, July 9 at Bader Field. Distribution begins at 10:00 AM and is drive-up only. Food will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration is required at the Community Food Bank website, <https://cfbnj.org/>.

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Atlantic City Summer Meals for the Youth

Hunger Free New Jersey has announced that twelve different sites across Atlantic City are giving out FREE healthy, tasty meals for children and teenagers in Atlantic City this summer. Let us keep our kids focused and strong! In line with social distancing guidelines, all meals are pre-packaged and offered in a “grab-and-go” format, and those picking up meals are asked to wear masks. We will not ask for ID, and this is open to all children regardless of income level, citizenship status, or where you live. Children do not need to be present for a parent or caregiver to pick up their meals.

Atlantic City public schools will distribute breakfast and lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 11:00

AM, for the entire month of July. Monday distributions will include meals for both Monday and Tuesday, and Thursday distributions will include meals for Thursday, Friday, and the weekend. Meals can be found at:

- Atlantic City High School
- Brighton Avenue School
- Chelsea Heights School
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex
- New York Avenue School
- Pennsylvania Avenue School
- Richmond Avenue School
- Texas Avenue School
- Sovereign Avenue School

- Uptown School Complex
- Venice Park School

The AtlantiCare HealthPlex (located at 1401 Atlantic Avenue) will hand out lunches for children on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, throughout July and August. Families picking up meals there should register at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020 meals or call (888) 569-1000.

COVID- 19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Renters Can Submit Pre-Applications Beginning Tomorrow through Friday, July 10

The application period for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (CVERAP) opens tomorrow, July 6. 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 starting at 9 a.m. on July 6 at <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/NJ> 559-2809. Paper CVERAP pre-applications will not be accepted. Pre-applications received from July 6 to July 10 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 per county 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.

Federal Stimulus Check Information

If you do not make enough income to have to file taxes, you may miss out on the federal stimulus check, also known as the Economic Impact Payment.

To apply or check your eligibility go to the IRS web page www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-flers-enter-payment-info-here.

To receive the payments, individuals must provide their information to the IRS and apply for the payment no later than October 15, 2020.

All U.S. citizens, permanent residents and qualifying resident aliens are eligible whom:

- Have a valid Social Security number,
- Could not be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer, and
- Had adjusted gross income under certain limits.

COVID-19 Testing Sites for Atlantic City Residents

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, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. 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 Fridays.

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 2 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), click "COVID-19 Testing", and follow the prompts. If further assistance is needed, call 609-318-6990.

Atlantic City High School Class of 2020 Graduation

The Atlantic City High School announced that the graduating class of 2020 will be honored at a *Drive-Thru* commencement celebration on July 8th at Bader Field (600 N. Albany Avenue) in Atlantic City. This decision was based on the overall safety, security and health of students, families and staff members. The details are as follows:

- One vehicle per family (no more than four guests) will be allowed to accompany the graduate.
- Each graduate will wear his/her cap and gown;

graduates are permitted to decorate caps.

- With loosened restrictions, graduates ONLY will now exit their vehicle, walk across the stage, hear their name and take a picture with their diploma.
- A staff photographer will be available to capture each graduate on stage; the photograph will be mailed at a later date.
- Everyone is encouraged to decorate their vehicles to commemorate the occasion.



- A video will be created to include special speeches from students and staff.
- Graduates must bring school ID.
- Please email Ms. Carter at lcarter@acboe.org if transportation is a concern.
- Last Name (A-L) - Ceremony Time – 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.
- Last Name (M-Z) - Ceremony Time - 2:00 PM-5:00 PM.


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 /    @AtlanticCityGov

Atlantic City Police Department- 609.347.5780 / 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 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 the Mayor

With most of the casinos now re-open, outdoor dining offered at many restaurants and eateries, and crowds returning to the beach and Boardwalk, it is sure beginning to feel like summer in the great City of Atlantic City. However, as I have said before, we must proceed with caution. Currently, there is a recent surge in the spread of the Coronavirus in southern and western states. Florida has confirmed a record number of cases and North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, Idaho, Alaska, Alabama and Texas are reporting alarming rates of infection.

As Mayor, I am very concerned with the health and well-being of our residents. Since last March, we have been addressing the pandemic to the best of our ability and keeping you informed and up-to-date. We are working

with Governor Murphy and the State of New Jersey, as well as with various health organizations to monitor the Coronavirus in order to ensure public health and safety. This has been a slow process, and I thank you for being patient and understanding during this unprecedented time. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live and created many challenges for each and every one of us.

It is extremely important to continue to follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control in order to curb the spread of the Coronavirus. Please be sure to wear a mask/face covering when in public, practice social distancing, wash your hands thoroughly and disinfect and sanitize your surroundings.

Once again, I am honored to salute and extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Frontline Heroes: the emergency personnel, public safety and public works employees, City Hall staff, government workers, transportation/delivery personnel and food industry employees who go to work each and every day in order to save and sustain lives. I am very proud to recognize and commend their outstanding efforts 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