

COVID-19 Newsletter

City of Atlantic City



New Jersey to Enter Stage 2 on June 15

June 7, 2020

This week, Governor Phil Murphy announced that New Jersey will enter Stage Two on June 15, 2020.

Guided by strict protocols from the New Jersey Department of Health, as well as input from the Governor's Restart and Recovery Commission and complementary Advisory Councils, Stage Two will include outdoor dining for restaurants and indoor, non-essential retail as of June 15th. Beginning on June 22nd, barber shops and salons will be able to reopen. In the period to follow, New Jersey will work toward the gradual opening of personal care, gyms, and health clubs, at reduced capacities as the restart progresses.

STAGE 2:

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

- Outdoor dining (beginning on June 15th);
- In-person customer services at Motor Vehicle Commission (beginning on June 15th);
- Limited in-person retail (beginning on June 15th);
 - Number of customers in stores must be

limited to 50% of approved capacity

- Customers and employees must wear face coverings
- Areas used by employees must be regularly sanitized
- Hair salons and barber shops (beginning on June 22nd);
- Youth summer programs (beginning on July 6th);
- In-person clinical research/labs;
- Limited fitness/gyms;
- Limited in-person government services; and
- Museums/libraries.

All workers who can work from home should continue to work from home.

Precautions that apply across all stages include:

- Clinically high-risk individuals who can stay at home should continue to do so.

All residents and businesses should follow state and federal safeguarding guidelines:

- Wash hands;
- Wear masks in public;
- Respect social distancing;

- Minimize gatherings;
- Disinfect workplace and businesses; and
- No mass gatherings

New Jersey will move toward subsequent stages based on data that demonstrates improvements in public health and the capacity to safeguard the public, including:

- Sustained improvements in public health indicators, including new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, individuals in intensive care, and ventilator use;
- Substantial increase in testing and contact tracing capacity;
- Sufficient resilience in New Jersey's health care system to include adequate bed capacity, ventilators, personal protective equipment, and workforce;
- Widespread safeguarding of workplaces;
- Widespread safeguarding and capacity of child care, schools, and mass transit;
- Continued public compliance.

If public health indicators, safeguarding, or compliance worsen on a sustained basis, New Jersey will be prepared to move back to more restrictive stages as well.

New Rental Assistance Program to Help Residents Affected by COVID-19 Pandemic

The State of New Jersey's COVID-19 Short-Term Rental Assistance Program will provide at least \$100 million in rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households that have had a substantial reduction in income as a result of the pandemic, including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The program is being administered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

The program will open for applications in July and begin paying rental assistance in September. Qualifying households will be expected to pay 30 percent of their income toward rent, and the program will pay the remainder of their rent up to DCA's fair market rent payment standard.

Approximately 20 percent of funding will be dedicated to serve those who are very low income and homeless or at risk of homelessness with up to 12 months of rental assistance. These households will be selected by DCA through the Coordinated Entry process in each county's

Homeless Management Information System. To help families reach self-sufficiency, case management, financial planning, and other assistance will be provided by the program.

For the remainder of the funding, DCA will administer an online lottery. When the lottery is opened in July, households may submit applications and participants will be selected from the overall pool of applicants through a randomized process based on eligibility and the lottery criteria. Applicants selected through the lottery will be eligible to receive up to six months of short-term rental assistance. Should further funding become available, DCA will serve additional households.

Households may qualify for the lottery based on the below standards:

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a New Jersey resident.
- Maximum income up to 80 percent of area median income (AMI).

- Must have been current in their rental payments as of March 1, 2020.
- Must be able to provide proof of impact of COVID-19 beginning on March 9, 2020 when Governor Murphy declared the state of emergency.
 - Layoff;
 - Reduced work hours;
 - Unpaid leave to take care of children due to school and daycare closures; and/or
 - Need to self-quarantine for 14 days resulted in a loss of income

The COVID-19 Short Term Rental Assistance Program website will launch on June 15 with additional information at <https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/shorttermrap.html>.

Friends in Action Food Distribution

Friends in Action, a non-profit community organization, has partnered with Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office, Reliance Medical Group, and the City of Atlantic City to provide food distribution to Atlantic City and Atlantic County residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are seven scheduled events for June in Atlantic City. Please remember to social distance and wear a face covering.

June 8 beginning at 11:00 AM at Walter J. Buzby Apartments (600

South Drive). Identification is required.

June 11 beginning at 12:00 PM at Shore Park Low Rise (911 Mediterranean Avenue). Identification is required.

June 12 beginning at 10:30 AM at Walter J. Buzby Apartments (600 South Drive).

June 18 beginning at 11:00 AM at 2709 Fairmount Avenue.

June 23 beginning at 12:00 PM at Shore Park Low Rise (911 Mediterranean Avenue). Identification is required.

June 24 beginning at 12:00 PM at Shore Park Low Rise (911 Mediterranean Avenue).

June 25 beginning at 12:00 PM at 2709 Fairmount Avenue. Identification is required.



Important Safety Tips to Remember

In order to keep you, your family, and everyone safe during this pandemic, remember to follow these simple safety tips:

- If you can, stay home.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Maintain social distance of at least six feet.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect regularly used surfaces.
- Stay home if you do not feel well.
- If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care.
- Wear a face cover.

Community Assists in Clean-Up

On the morning of Monday, June 1, Atlantic City residents woke up to destruction throughout the city including Atlantic Avenue, Pacific Avenue, and Tanger Outlets-The Walk. Businesses, some owned by big corporations and some owned by hard-working private citizens, sustained smashed windows, damaged stores, and stolen merchandise after hours-long looting that occurred the night before.

Despite the ongoing looting and criminal activity, Atlantic City and Atlantic County residents began to

organize volunteer clean-ups for Monday morning. At the conclusion of a press conference by Mayor Marty Small Sr., the volunteers went to work cleaning up debris that stretched for blocks.



The City of Atlantic City would like to thank all those that volunteered

their time to assist our community in this clean-up.



Some of the members of the Atlantic City Fire Department that participated in the cleanup.

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.


Ways to Stay Informed/2020 Census

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.

We want to remind everyone to remember to take the 2020 Census. You can start at <https://2020census.gov/>.

Message from the Mayor

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a “new normal,” not only in our great city, but everywhere. Social distancing, wearing a mask/face covering in public, thorough handwashing and the disinfecting of our surroundings is vital in order to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and protect ourselves and our loved ones.

This past week has been especially challenging in the City of Atlantic City after a peaceful demonstration turned chaotic on May 31st. I am very grateful that no loss of life occurred. I am also extremely appreciative to the Atlantic City community for coming together to denounce those individuals who came to town to destroy property, loot and cause harm. This will not be tolerated.

I also would like to salute Atlantic City’s finest: our men and women in blue, the brave members of the Atlantic City Police Department, as well our emergency personnel and first responders. They served to protect our citizens and property owners and prevented a dangerous situation from further escalating.

Without a doubt, the COVID-19 pandemic and the incident that transpired last week proves the City of Atlantic City is ready, willing and able to take the necessary action to ensure the health, well-being and safety of the public.

Indeed, this is a difficult time for all of us, but problems exist only to be solved! Be strong. Be patient. And please check on your neighbor to make sure he

or she is okay. Remember, we are in this together, and together we will get through this! Yours in service to the community,

Marty Small, Sr.

