

# COVID-19 Newsletter

City of Atlantic City



## Beach Safety Practices During COVID-19 May 24, 2020

The City of Atlantic City reminds residents and visitors to follow beach safety practices and adhere to all city beach restrictions in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. To inform and encourage compliance, all digital signs on the Atlantic City boardwalk will display safety practices. Also, city personnel, police officers, and other ambassadors will be working to help keep public beaches open and safe and will be present to remind people to follow the rules and do their part to protect the public health of all beachgoers. Beachgoers and boardwalkers are asked to honor this hard work by being respectful of the guidance city staff share.

To promote public health safety, it will be necessary to limit physical interactions on the beaches and boardwalk this summer season. To do this the City will, until further notice:

- Require that members of the public practice social distancing;
- Prohibit special events such as festivals, fireworks, and concerts and organized activities such as sports;
- Limit the number of people on the beaches at any given time in order to assist with social distancing;

- Limit occupancy in public restrooms;
- Demarcate six feet of spacing in areas where the public may form a line;
- Keep closed all playgrounds, rides, arcades, games, water fountains, pavilions, indoor recreational facilities, and water play equipment;
- Remove or block all outdoor seating such as benches and tables from use; and
- Sanitize high-touch surfaces frequently.

Boardwalk restaurants will be open for takeout and delivery only.

While the State's beach restrictions do not order people to wear a face covering while in public on the beach or boardwalk, the State and City are strongly encouraging people to do so, especially during busy times. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has emphasized the importance of using cloth face coverings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Beginning on Saturday, May 23, the following beaches will be open:

- Caspian Avenue
- New Hampshire Avenue
- Connecticut Avenue
- States Avenue
- North Carolina Avenue
- South Carolina Avenue
- Kentucky Avenue
- Mt. Vernon Avenue
- Martin Luther King Blvd
- Ohio Avenue
- Michigan Avenue
- Missouri Avenue
- Mississippi Avenue
- Florida Avenue
- Texas Avenue
- Brighton Avenue
- Chelsea Avenue
- Montpelier Avenue
- Albany Avenue
- Lincoln Place
- Annapolis Avenue
- Bartram Avenue
- Montgomery Avenue

Open beaches are subject to change as the City moves forward in the reopening phases.

## Residential Evictions and Foreclosure: What Households Need to Know

No one may be removed from their home for inability to pay their rent or their mortgage during the COVID-19 public health emergency under an Executive Order signed by Governor Phil Murphy. This is called an “eviction moratorium.” For renters, it means they cannot be removed from their home as a result of an eviction proceeding, with rare exceptions for cases such as when a renter is endangering others. For homeowners, it means they cannot be removed from their home as a result of a foreclosure proceeding even if a final judgment of foreclosure has been entered and a sheriff’s sale of their property has taken place. The eviction moratorium will remain in effect until two months after Governor Murphy declares an end to the COVID-19 health crisis, unless the Governor issues another Executive Order to end it sooner.

During the eviction moratorium, rent is still due and renters should pay if they can. Renters can direct their landlord in writing, including electronic communication such as by email or text, to apply their security deposit to the rent they owe during the public health emergency and for up to 60 days afterwards.

The landlord must comply with such a request. If a landlord does not comply, renters can report the landlord by using the [www.covid19.nj.gov/forms/violations](http://www.covid19.nj.gov/forms/violations) webpage or by calling 2-1-1. It is a crime for landlords to lock renters out. Under New Jersey law, only the courts can order evictions and only government officials can remove individuals from their home. If a landlord locks a renter out, the renter should call the local police right away.

Homeowners who are economically impacted by COVID-19 can contact their mortgage lender to apply for up to a 90-day grace period – or mortgage forbearance – for mortgage payments. More than 150 financial institutions have committed to the State’s mortgage forbearance initiative. These mortgage payments will need to be made up by homeowners. The State of New Jersey has requested that forbearance payments be added to and made at the end of the life of the mortgage loan. However, homeowners should contact their mortgage lender to understand the specific programs and terms available to them. If a homeowner is experiencing issues with their

mortgage company, they can file a complaint with the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance through the complaint form on the department website at [state.nj.us/dobi/consumer.htm](http://state.nj.us/dobi/consumer.htm) or by contacting the department at (609) 292-7272 or 1-800-446-7467.

The State has established a rental housing information webpage and question portal as a single point of reference for renters and landlords seeking information about their rights during the public health emergency. The rental housing information page and question form can be found at:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/forms/renter>.

The State has also posted information for homeowners, which can be accessed by visiting [www.covid19.nj.gov](http://www.covid19.nj.gov) and clicking on “Get Assistance” and then selecting “Mortgage Relief.”

Both renters and homeowners can get help with their housing situation during this time by visiting [njhousing.gov/foreclosure](http://njhousing.gov/foreclosure) for a list of housing counselors by county or by calling 1-800-NJ-HOUSE.

## CRDA & Partners Funding Food Services

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) has collaborated with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, CRDA, the City of Atlantic City, AFL-CIO, Local 54 and other private donors to provide food services to Atlantic City residents and casino workers in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a first-of-its-kind partnership between State and local governments, the casino

industry, and union representatives, which includes Local 54 providing boots-on-the-ground coordination with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and the AFL-CIO providing both financial and volunteer support.

The food distribution will be on a first come first serve basis for Atlantic City residents and casino workers. Registration is required at the Community Food Bank website, <https://cfbnj.org/>. The

distribution will be drive-up only. People will not be getting out of their cars.

Each kit contains 12 servings of food, including fresh produce.

The food distribution will take place at Bader Field on May 28, June 11 and June 25. Two additional dates in July will be scheduled. Services will begin at 10:00 AM.

## 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

## Online Grocery Shopping for SNAP Recipients

The Department of Human Services announced that New Jerseyans enrolled in the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will be able to use their benefits to order groceries online starting next week. Online shopping will be available through Amazon and participating Walmarts, ShopRites and The Fresh Grocers.

NJ SNAP recipients will be able to use their benefits card to order groceries from Amazon starting on May 27. Walmarts, ShopRites and The Fresh Grocers that provide

online shopping will also accept online ordering with SNAP benefits starting on May 28.

Recipients will be able to use their Families First Electronic Benefits Transfer card to purchase eligible groceries from the participating retailers. SNAP benefits cannot be used to pay for delivery fees.

To learn more, recipients can visit [Amazon.com/SNAP](https://www.amazon.com/SNAP) to register their EBT card. Any Walmart, ShopRite or The Fresh Grocer that currently provides online shopping will also accept online ordering with SNAP benefits.

Human Services has taken the following steps to help New Jerseyans access affordable food during the emergency:

Ensured that everyone whose benefits were up for renewal in March and April, or are due in May or June were extended for six months, meaning that nobody's SNAP benefits will be ended during these extensions for not completing the renewal.

Made it easier to apply for SNAP during this emergency.

## Schedule Change for COVID-19 Testing Sites

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 stationed 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](https://www.cityofatlanticcity.org)), click "COVID-19 Testing", and follow the prompts. If further assistance is needed, call 609-318-6990.

# 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.

## Message from the Mayor

With Memorial Day weekend upon us, the unofficial start of the summer season is very different from years past. In fact, with the COVID-19 global health crisis, life is very different in many, many ways. Indeed, we are living in a very challenging and uncertain time. It's not easy; however, with problems come solutions! And as I have told you before, "this too shall pass."

I can assure you that the City of Atlantic City continues to address the COVID-19 pandemic to the best of our ability. We are working 24/7 to ensure the needs of the public are being met. We are in constant communication with the State of New Jersey and various agencies to monitor the community and help flatten the curve in order to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. We operate in strict compliance with health standards and guidelines; and we are 100% transparent in our effort to keep

residents, merchants and business owners informed and up-to-date.

Your help and cooperation to comply with the policies that have been established to protect and promote public health and safety is most appreciated. I ask that you continue to remain at home as much as possible, wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing, and make sure to use a mask/face covering. And please give your neighbor a call to make sure he or she is okay. We are in this together, and together we will get through this!

Due to the pandemic, the City of Atlantic City is unable to hold its annual Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. As such, I wish to take this opportunity to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the military. Their dedication, devotion and heroism will forever be remembered.

In closing, I once again extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation as I salute our Frontline Heroes: the emergency personnel, public safety and public works employees, City Hall staff, delivery personnel and food industry employees who save and sustain lives. Their efforts at this unprecedented time are appreciated more than words can adequately express!

Thank you.

Yours in service to the community,

Marty Small, Sr.

