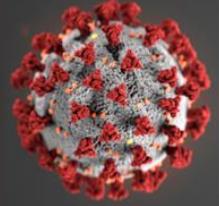


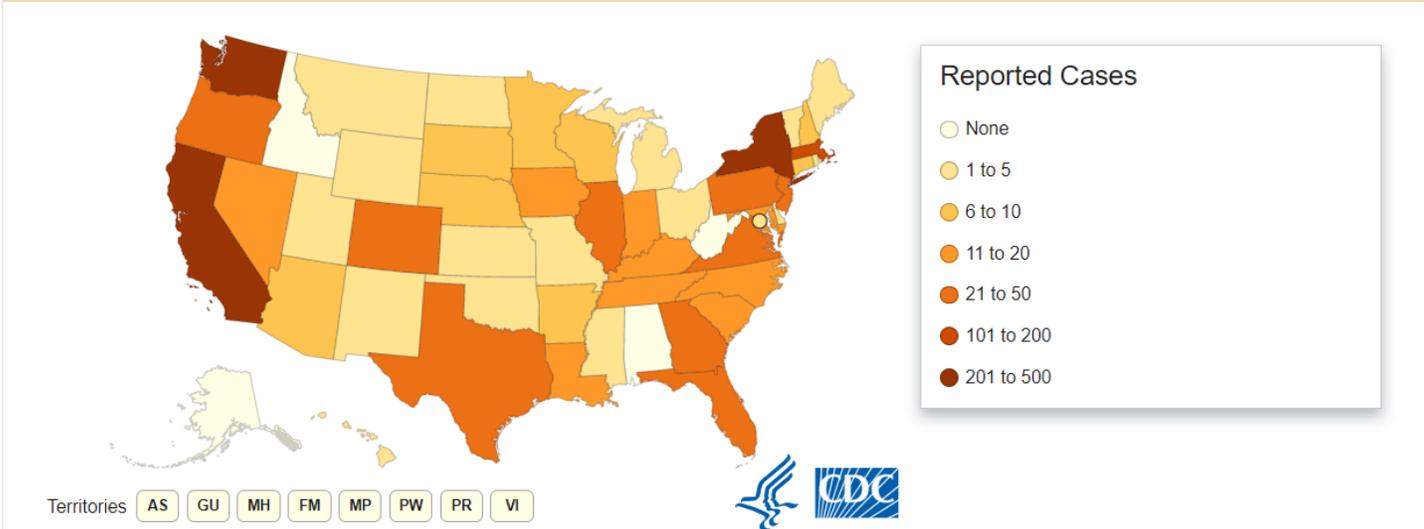
# Hunterdon County NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002  
VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



NEW INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS IN BLUE

## States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC\*



### **BACKGROUND**

The Hunterdon County Health Department and the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management, along with State and Federal partners continue to monitor the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19. The County is closely coordinating prevention and response efforts with representatives from every municipality in Hunterdon County, medical care providers, school districts and first responders.

### **KEY MESSAGES**

**COVID-19 Case Count:** As of Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 8:00PM there is 1 confirmed case of COVID-19 in a Hunterdon County resident. The Hunterdon County Health Department is conducting the case investigation and contact-tracing, and working in close coordination with Hunterdon Healthcare system. Individuals who had close contact with the patient will be notified by the Health Department, and asked to self-quarantine for 14-days. The patient is recovering in isolation at home.

As testing has expanded to include New Jersey Public Health Environmental Lab and commercial labs, it is anticipated that case counts will rise throughout New Jersey. Additionally, there are two confirmed deaths statewide as a result of COVID-19.

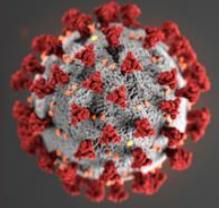
**Hunterdon County School Closures:** On Friday, March 13, 2020, all Hunterdon County schools announced that they are closed effective March 16 through March 30. School districts will consult with Hunterdon County Health Department to assess re-opening. Hunterdon County is supporting school districts and municipal governments in light of the closure.

All ESF's and groups are encouraged to examine employee availability and consider flexible working environments where possible due to the 2-week school closure.

**Municipal Courts Closed:** On Saturday, March 14, 2020, the New Jersey Court System announced a two-week suspension of municipal court operations from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27.

# Hunterdon County NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002  
VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



**Hunterdon County Government:** County offices will be open and maintaining operations. Certain large gatherings have been cancelled or postponed, aligning with the Governor’s guidance from March 12. Enhanced sanitizing of county facilities is underway. Employee attendance at large events and conferences, as well as out of state travel on official business has been suspended.

**Private Sector Impacts:** The Office of Emergency Management is working with private industry to assess supply chain status and consumer behaviors and impacts. Local grocers have reported sales and activity levels that surpass those experienced in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

**Mass Gatherings:** As of 3/12/2020, Governor Phil Murphy is encouraging the cancellation of all public gatherings throughout New Jersey in which more than 250 individuals are expected to congregate. This may include concerts, sporting events, and parades. Additionally, for all events, it is recommended that everyone practice commonsense hygiene, such washing hands routinely, staying home if you do not feel well, and keeping a six-foot distance from others. Individuals at risk, such as the elderly or with compromised immune systems are encouraged to refrain from large events.

General questions regarding COVID-19 should be directed to the NJDOH COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

Medical care providers should contact the Health Department with questions 908-788-1351.

Travel: Due to the rapidly changing situation, travel recommendations and countries with various levels of travel alerts are subject to frequent updates. Please refer callers to the CDC website Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> for the most current information.

The Hunterdon County Health Department, along with State and Federal partners continue to monitor the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19. It is important to know the risk to the general public is low. Although there are currently no cases in Hunterdon County, the Health Department is working closely with healthcare providers, schools, long-term care facilities, and first responders to prepare and detect any cases.

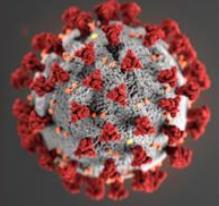
Hunterdon County is unable to fulfill resource requests for hand sanitizer, hand soap, disinfectant wipes, and bleach solution.

## SUMMARY OF HUNTERDON COUNTY ACTIONS / EVENTS

<p><b><u>Valid: March 12, 13, and 14 2020</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President Trump has issued a national emergency declaration, activating elements of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act. This declaration allows for the recovery of category B related expenses incurred by government and certain private non-profit organizations.</li><li>• Provide accurate and timely information to the public, stakeholders and partner agencies</li><li>• Hunterdon County OEM &amp; Health Department are working with Hunterdon Healthcare to coordinate strategy and contingencies for long-term care and similar facilities</li></ul>
---	---

# Hunterdon County NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002  
VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



**Valid: March 12, 13,  
and 14 2020**

- Hunterdon County OEM participated in conference calls with NJOEM on March 13 and 14 to discuss statewide emergency management posture, government continuity and situation status
- Hunterdon County is working to support county, municipal and support agency resource needs
- Ensure Continuity of Government and Operations for Hunterdon County
- Enhanced cleaning at Hunterdon County facilities is occurring on March 14 and 15
- On March 13, the Hunterdon County Medical Reserve Corp activated and support a phone bank in coordination with Hunterdon Healthcare and Hunterdon Medical Center. The MRC will support the operation throughout the week.
- On March 14, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 reported in a Hunterdon County resident. The Health Department is conducting the case interview and contact-tracing, and working in close coordination with Hunterdon Medical Center.

## **HUNTERDON COUNTY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION REPORTS**

### ESF 1 – Transportation

- County LINK service continues uninterrupted
- Enhanced cleaning of the vehicles has been requested

### ESF 2 – Communications

- Hunterdon County 911 Communications is operating with normal staffing
- 911 call volume is normal
- Screening of callers reporting medical emergencies, which began in February, continues in accordance with NJ EMD and CDC guidance
- Staff are practicing social distancing techniques by rotating dispatch consoles each shift
- Staff have been provided with guidance to clean positions during shift change to limit exposure

### ESF 3 – Public Works

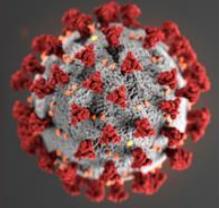
- No report

### ESF 4 – Firefighting

- Hunterdon County fire departments are using social media to communicate guidance to the public. Departments are urging the public to communicate flu like symptoms when reporting fire related incidents to 911.

# Hunterdon County NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002  
VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



## ESF 5 – Emergency Management

- Coordinating the efforts of ESF leads in a telework environment to maintain social distancing
- Emergency Management is coordinating with Hunterdon County Schools, Hunterdon County Municipal OEM Coordinators, and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management to review and address contingency plans and community impacts related to a long-term closure of educational institutions
- Coordinating information and awareness among county and partner agencies
- Developing guidance for municipal government, school districts and private non-profits to use in tracking Stafford Act related expenses
- Facilitated a conference call with Hunterdon County CERT teams on March 14
- Assisting ESF8A in case investigation of the positive test announced on March 14

## ESF 6 – Mass Care

- Hunterdon County has developed a Code Blue contingency plan. This will be communicated when temperatures require activation of the plan in accordance with New Jersey law.

## ESF 7 – Logistics / Resource Management

- Resource coordination and allocation is being accomplished by ESF 5 & 8A
- Hunterdon County Purchasing Division is not accepting requisitions for disinfectant wipes, disinfectant sprays or disinfectant sanitizers due to supply chain shortages. Hunterdon County is unable to fulfill resource requests for hand sanitizer, hand soap, disinfectant wipes, and bleach solution.

## ESF 8A – Public Health

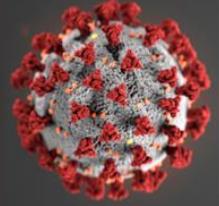
- The first laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in Hunterdon County was identified on March 14.
- Conducting Public Health investigations for suspected COVID cases and prepared to investigate any immediately reportable COVID-19 positive results in Hunterdon County residents, which includes contact-tracing and self-quarantine guidance, as appropriate.
- Assist in screening patients for testing with medical care providers in accordance with NJDOH testing criteria for PHEL. Providers are encouraged to prioritize commercial lab kits for high risk groups such as healthcare workers, medically fragile, and individuals part of a potential cluster of COVID with symptoms.
- Facilitating transfer of suspect COVID case specimens to the New Jersey Public Health Lab
- Provide situation briefing, guidance, and information for public dissemination with specific groups, such as EMS, law enforcement, businesses, and non-profit agencies.
- On March 13, the Hunterdon County Medical Reserve Corp activated and support a phone bank in coordination with Hunterdon Healthcare and Hunterdon Medical Center. The MRC will support the operation throughout the week.
- Participation in daily briefings with NJDOH.
- Respond to resident inquiries and community groups, providing direction and guidance as appropriate.

## ESF 8B – Emergency Medical Services

- Patient transport and hospital receiving guidance has been communicated to EMS providers.
- PPE recommendations and guidance have been shared with EMS agencies
- New Jersey Office of Emergency Medical Services are pursuing waivers to grant extensions for expiring Emergency Medical Technicians and CPR certifications

# Hunterdon County NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002  
VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



## ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

- No report

## ESF 10 – HazMat

- No report

## ESF 11 – Agriculture

- No report

## ESF 12 – Utilities

- Open source media is reporting that major electric providers announced that they will not be terminating service of past due accounts. JCP&L announced there is no timeline for when this standard practice will resume.
- Comcast is reporting several actions to support customers during this time:
  - Xfinity WiFi Free For Everyone: Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity WiFi hotspots, visit [www.xfinity.com/wifi](http://www.xfinity.com/wifi). Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the “xfinitywifi” network name in the list of available hotspots, and then launch a browser.
  - Pausing Our Data Plan: With so many people working and educating from home, we want our customers to access the internet without thinking about data plans. While the vast majority of our customers do not come close to using 1TB of data in a month, we are pausing our data plans for 60 days giving all customers Unlimited data for no additional charge.
  - No Disconnects or Late Fees: We will not disconnect a customer’s internet service or assess late fees if they contact us and let us know that they can’t pay their bills during this period. Our care teams will be available to offer flexible payment options and can help find other solutions.
  - Internet Essentials Free to New Customers: As announced yesterday, it’s even easier for low-income families who live in a Comcast service area to sign-up for Internet Essentials, the nation’s largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program. New customers will receive 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month. Additionally, for all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program’s Internet service was increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. That increase will go into effect for no additional fee and it will become the new base speed for the program going forward.
  - News, Information and Educational Content on X1 and Flex: For those with school-age students at home, we’ve created new educational collections for all grade levels in partnership with Common Sense Media. Just say “education” into your X1 or Flex voice remote. To help keep customers informed, we also have created a collection of the most current news and information on Coronavirus. Just say “Coronavirus” into your X1 or Flex voice remote.
  - 24x7 Network Monitoring: Underpinning all of these efforts, Comcast’s technology and engineering teams will continue to work tirelessly to support our network operations. We engineer our network capacity to handle spikes and shifts in usage patterns, and continuously test, monitor and enhance our

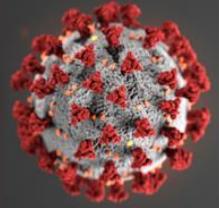
# Hunterdon County

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002

VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



systems and network to ensure they are ready to support customer usage. Our engineers and technicians staff our network operations centers 24/7 to ensure network performance and reliability. We are monitoring network usage and watching the load on the network both nationally and locally, and to date it is performing well.

- For more information and updates from Comcast related to Coronavirus, visit:  
<http://www.comcastcorporation.com/COVID-19/>

### ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

- On March 14 the New Jersey Courts ordered a two-week suspension of municipal court session. The announcement is attached.
- Hunterdon County Sheriff's & Prosecutor's Offices are urging the public to be mindful of event related scams
- Multiple municipal law enforcement agencies have altered response protocols for certain medical incidents
- The New Jersey Department of Corrections has suspended visitors for 30 days

### ESF 14A – Long Term Recovery

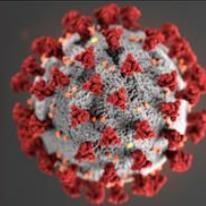
- No report

### ESF 14B – Human Services

- Hunterdon Healthcare has announced that Brideside Adult Day Center will be suspending operations as of Monday, March 16, 2020.
- Meals on Wheels is implementing several contingencies in an effort to sustain service of the program:
  - Volunteers are contacted the day prior to their shift and will be cancelled if they sound ill
  - Volunteers are being screened for illness prior to leaving the facility
  - Some volunteers are self-cancelling out of caution and concern
  - Congregate meal participants advise they family & friends to assist
  - Volunteers are being provided with actions to safeguard themselves and clients, and are wearing gloves during delivery
  - As of March 16, participants will leave a cooler on their porch. The volunteer will place the food in the cooler for the participant to retrieve, limiting the person to person interaction
  - Those with DAFN or mobility concerns are being reviewed to ensure they have assistance
  - Participants in the program also have shelf stable meals. Additional supplies can be ordered, if needed.
- Flemington Area Food Pantry:
  - Enhanced cleaning in the facility
  - They have not seen an influx in visitors
  - Partners have expressed they will continue to support them with food
  - Schools have contacted the food pantry to form partnerships due to school closures
- Mental Health Resources available for those in need:
  - <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4885.pdf>
  - New Jersey Department of Human Services warm line: (877) 294-4357
  - Hunterdon Behavioral Health (908) 788-6401
  - Catholic Charities (908) 782-7905
  - High Point Partial Care (908) 788-5979

# Hunterdon County NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002  
VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



## ESF 15 – External Affairs

- A Joint Information System was established on March 7 bringing together Hunterdon County Health Department, Emergency Management, Administration, Information Technology and Hunterdon Healthcare to coordinate messaging and information.
- Hunterdon County Information Technology is posting updates and information to:  
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/coronavirus.html>
- A local call center for COVID related questions has been established and be contacted at (908) 788-6440.

## **ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED DURING FUTURE OPERATIONAL PERIODS**

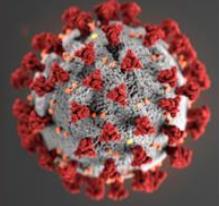
- Ongoing and continuous activities of the Hunterdon County Health Department include traveler tracking from affected nations, patient screening for COVID-19 testing in coordination with medical care providers, provision of Health Alerts to community agencies, and response to resident and agency inquiries. Case investigation of confirmed cases immediately as reported. Traveler screening has expanded in response to restrictions put in place for European travel.
- On March 13, the Hunterdon County Medical Reserve Corp activated to support a phone bank in coordination with Hunterdon Healthcare and Hunterdon Medical Center, and the MRC will continue to support through the week.
- On March 16, Hunterdon County OEM will participate in a conference call with the Hunterdon County School Superintendents Association to discuss Emergency Preparedness Plans, focusing on feeding of students in accordance with federal regulations.
- Resource requests received from the evening of March 13 through March 15 are being reviewed and a disposition will be provided for Monday, March 16.
- Hunterdon County OEM, Health, Hunterdon Medical Center and long-term care facilities to convene to discuss surge, patient care and transport.
- Hunterdon County leadership is facilitating daily conferences calls with key departments and ESF leads to develop situational awareness and a common operating picture.
- OEM and HCHD will participate in daily conference calls with Hunterdon Medical Center.
- OEM will coordinate situation briefings with Hunterdon County first responders, municipal OEMs, and other partners as conditions and the situation required.

## **GENERAL SAFETY MESSAGE**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are providing specific safety guidance documents to the public, businesses, healthcare, first responders, educational institutions and travelers.

# Hunterdon County NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

SITUATION REPORT #002  
VALID: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



Visit the following website for more information:

Hunterdon County Health Department  
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/coronavirus.html>

New Jersey Department of Health  
<https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

The Center for Disease Control  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## **EOC ACTIVATIONS**

No Emergency Operations Centers have reported as being activated

## **EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS**

State of New Jersey – March 9, 2020

## **NEXT SITUATION REPORT**

Situation reports will be provided as events & conditions dictate.