Greetings from the New Jersey Department of Health

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The State and Local COVID Response Ecosystem Key Offices for Healthcare Providers to Know

Acronym	Full Name	Agency	Role
CDS	Communicable Disease Service	Department of Health	Prevents communicable disease and promotes the knowledge and use of healthy lifestyles to maximize the health and well being of New Jerseyans through leadership, collaborative partnerships, and advocacy for communicable disease surveillance, research, education, treatment, prevention and control.
DCA	Division of Consumer Affairs	Office of the Attorney General	Oversees 51 professional and licensing boards in the State of New Jersey, including the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Respiratory Care, Therapists and the boards that license mental health professionals.
Health Systems	Health Systems Branch	Department of Health	Oversees inspections and enforcements of regulations for licensed New Jersey Health Care facilities, the Certificate of Need Program, and major hospital funding programs such as Charity Care, Graduate Medical Education, and the Delivery Systems Reform Incentive Payment Program.
OEM	Office of Emergency Management	New Jersey State Police	Coordinates with the county Offices of Emergency Management (OEMs). Organizes, directs, staffs, coordinates and reports the activities of the Emergency Response Bureau, Recovery Bureau, and Preparedness Bureau.
OEMS	Office of Emergency Medical Services	Department of Health	Certifies Emergency Medical Technician (EMTs) and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP's) as well as licensing mobility assistance vehicles, ambulances, mobile intensive care units, specialty care transport units and air medical units.
OLPH	Office of Local Public Health	Department of Health	Provides regulatory oversight, technical assistance, resources, guidance and communication to local health departments (LHDs). Licenses public health professionals, collaborates on workforce development initiatives, and oversees the Child Lead Program.
PHEL	Public Health and Environmental Laboratories	Department of Health	Offers laboratory testing services supporting the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and other federal, state and local agencies who protect the public's health.

Where to Find Information and Guidance

For the latest information and guidance:

The New Jersey Department of Health
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Press Releases from the Office of the Governor
The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
The New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub
covid19.NJ.gov

If the public has questions, they should contact the call center: 1-800-962-1253 or 211. Call centers are open 24/7. The call centers are not able to diagnose individuals, provide testing appointments or results, or give specific medical recommendations. Residents can also text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive text information to stay informed.

The NJDOH Communicable Disease Service (CDS) is accepting COVID-19 calls from local health departments, health care providers, and medical facility staff. During regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm, call (609) 826-5964. After hours and weekends, please call (609) 392-2020.

For PPE and other resource requests:

All resource requests regardless of originating agency should be routed through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) E-Team Resource Request Process. This process requires requesting agencies initiate the request through their respective County Offices of Emergency Management (OEM). All agencies are encouraged to follow the recommendations of the CDC/NIOSH on extending use and limited re-use of your PPE supply (CDC's Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings). Currently, both NJOEM & NJDOH are exhausting all procurement options to meet the overwhelming demand.

To connect with your local or county public health department:

Directory of Local Health Departments in New Jersey

NJ Health
New Jersey Department of Health

COVID-19 Testing Essentials: Priorities

Thomas Kirn
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New Jersey Department of Health

Coronavirus
COVID-19

PRIORITIES FOR TESTING PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED COVID-19 INFECTION

COVID-19 Symptoms: Fever, Cough, and Shortness of Breath

1

PRIORITY 1

Ensures optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of healthcare-associated infections, and maintain the integrity of the U.S. healthcare system

- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare facility workers with symptoms

2

PRIORITY 2

Ensures those at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms

3

PRIORITY 3

As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Healthcare facility workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations

NON-PRIORITY

NON-PRIORITY

- Individuals without symptoms

For more information visit: coronavirus.gov

Specimen Collection

- **CDC recommends collecting and testing an upper respiratory specimen, with a nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen as the preferred choice for swab-based SARS-CoV-2 testing.**
- **When it is clinically indicated (e.g., those receiving invasive mechanical ventilation), a lower respiratory tract aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage sample should be collected as well.**
- When collection of a nasopharyngeal swab is not possible, the following are acceptable alternatives:
  - An oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collected by a healthcare professional, or
  - A nasal mid-turbinate (NMT) swab collected by a healthcare professional or by onsite self-collection (using a flocked tapered swab), or
  - An anterior nares specimen collected by a healthcare professional or by onsite self-collection (using a round foam swab).
- Clinicians should contact their reference lab to find out what specimen types are acceptable and if testing supplies are available. Alternately, clinicians can order testing supplies from their contracted medical supplier.

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Note: For symptomatic patients determined to be medically stable, carefully consider the clinical need for testing in these individuals.

- Testing will not change medical management.
- For those patients you determine to be medically stable, who can be discharged to home, testing for COVID-19 is not routinely recommended by the NJDOH.
- In the event household contacts of a patient who is advised to self-isolate develop symptoms, those individuals should generally follow the same guidance.

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COVID-19 Testing Essentials: Logistics

Christopher Neuwirth
Assistant Commissioner
Public Health Infrastructure, Laboratories and Emergency Preparedness
New Jersey Department of Health

Types of Testing Sites

- Private testing sites
  - Commercial labs are offering COVID-19 testing to individuals who meet certain criteria.
  - A health care provider MUST order the test from the lab or provide the patient with a prescription to show the laboratory.
- Community-based testing sites
  - Open to all New Jerseyans who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness.
- County testing sites
  - ONLY open to residents of that county.
  - Some will accept first responders from anywhere in New Jersey.
  - Many require a prescription from a doctor and an appointment to get tested.

Note: Each testing site operates on a schedule and has specific requirements. Please check with that site before visiting.

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Community-based and County Testing Sites

NEW JERSEY
COVID-19 Information Hub

Call (General COVID-19 Questions): 2-1-1 (24/7)
Call (Medical COVID-19 Questions): 1-800-962-1253 (24/7)
Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive alerts

Select a Language

testing

ALL | CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION | NJ INFORMATION | MORE

1 - 18 of 18 | Location

1. **Quakerbridge Mall - Drive-Thru - MERCER COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**

   Open Now - Closes at 4:00 PM
   3320 Brunswick Pike
   Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

   This site is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To receive an appointment, your doctor must send notification to the site that you meet testing requirements and are symptomatic.

   The testing center is by appointment only for symptomatic Mercer County residents age 18 or older who have a prescription from their primary health care provider (PCP). If you are symptomatic for COVID-19 and want to be tested, contact your PCP.

   Physicians: Fax prescription with patient's home address to 609-630-4031.

   COMPLETE SELF-ASSESSMENT | DIRECTIONS

2. **Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center - Drive-Thru - BURLINGTON COUNTY RESIDENTS, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

   53 Academy Drive
   Westampton, NJ 08060

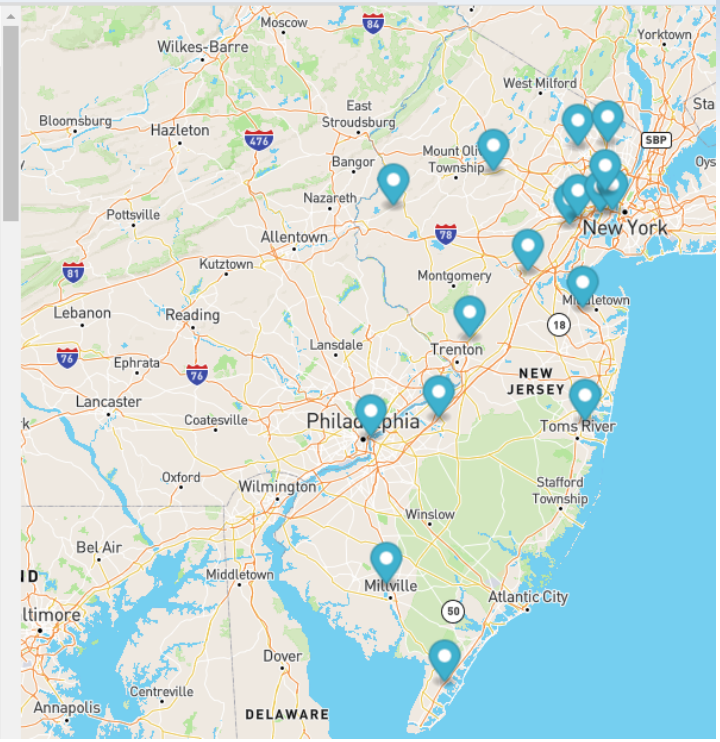
   You must call 609-726-7097 to make an appointment.

   COMPLETE SELF-ASSESSMENT | DIRECTIONS

3. **NJ MVC Kilmer Inspection Center - Drive-Thru - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**

   Closed - Opens at 10:00 AM
   33 Kilmer Road

   COMPLETE SELF-ASSESSMENT



https://covid19.nj.gov/testing

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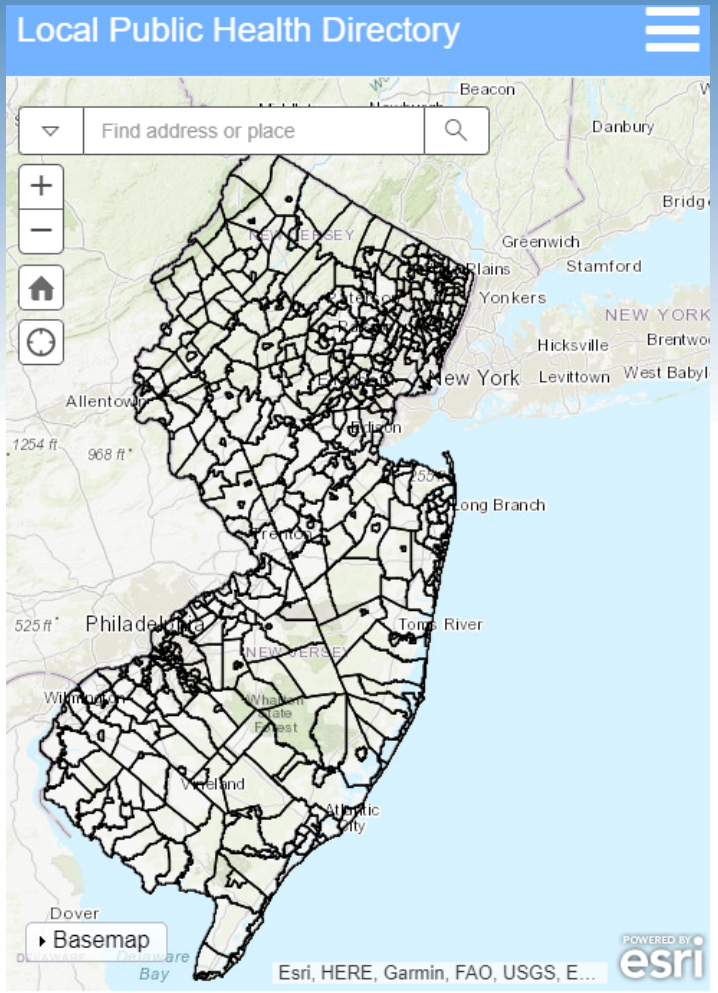
COVID-19 Testing Essentials: Local Public Health

Shereen Semple
Director
Office of Local Public Health
New Jersey Department of Health

Communicable Disease Reporting

- The New Jersey Department of Health and local public health departments depend on reports of diseases and conditions of public health concern to protect the health of all New Jersey residents.
- **Cases should be reported to the local health department where the patient resides.**
- If patient's residence is unknown, the report should be made to the local health department where the provider or laboratory is located.



https://nj.gov/health/lh/documents/LocalHealthDirectory.pdf

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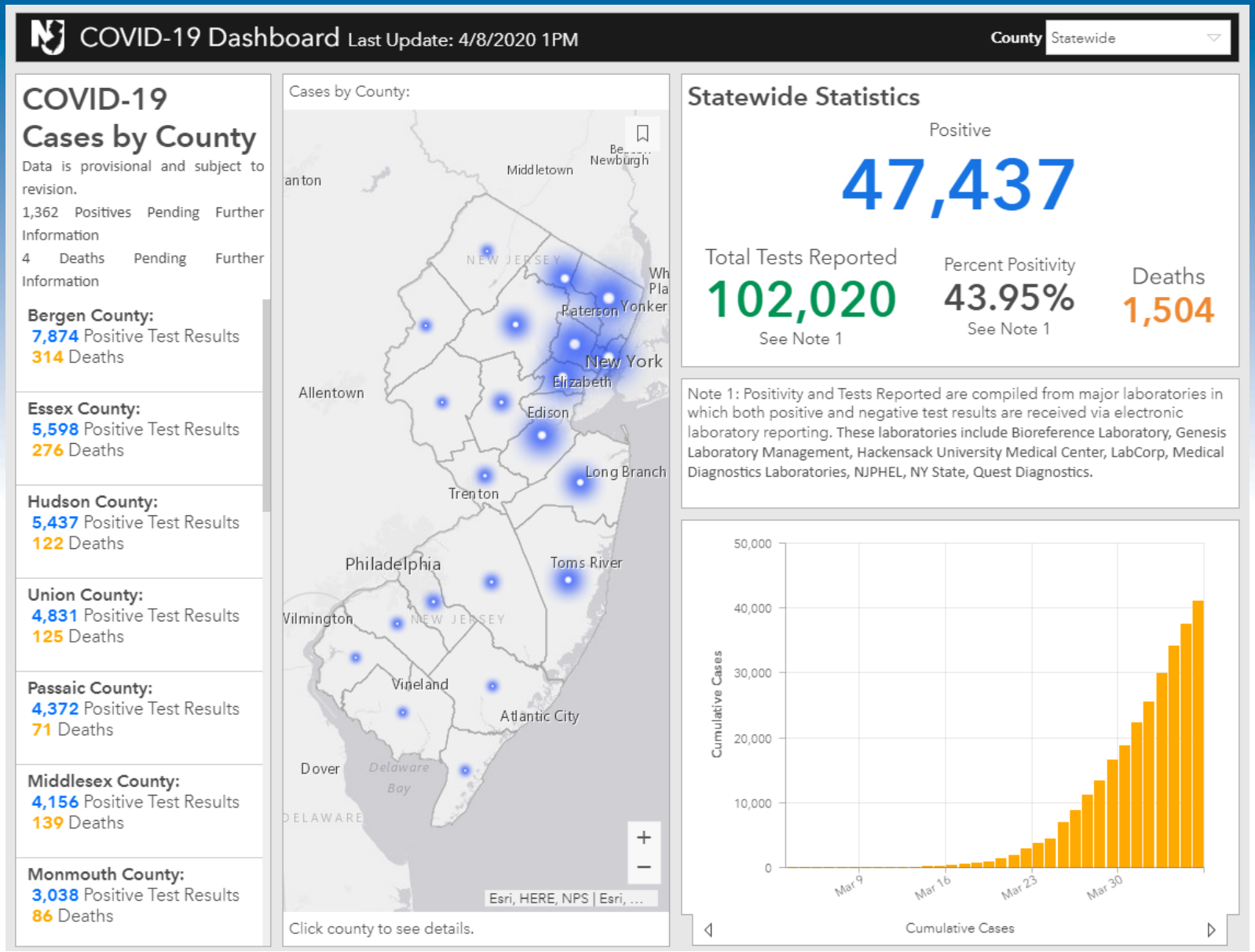

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