

BERGEN NEW JERSEY County



County of Bergen Executive Order No. 2020-01A

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the County Executive Form of Optional County Charter Law, N.J.S.A. 40:41A-36 and 37, et. seq., and Article 3, Section 3.4 of the Administrative Code of the County of Bergen, I issue the following Executive Order:

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 within New Jersey constitutes an imminent public health hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of one or more municipalities or counties of the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of New Jersey declared the concurrent invocation of both a State of Emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. App.A.:9-33 *et seq.* and a Public Health Emergency as contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 *et seq.*, which invoked the authority and powers contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-3, the Emergency Health Powers Act, and remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, in response to the health emergency posed by COVID-19, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-01, which declared a State of Emergency in Bergen County and established mandates to combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, all of the terms of Executive Order No. 2020-01, which declared a State of Emergency in Bergen County and established mandates to combat COVID-19, are hereby incorporated by reference and remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, since the declaration of the State of Emergency and issuance of Executive Order No. 2020-01, the number of cases in New Jersey has risen to 50, both travel-related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19, with 17 confirmed cases in Bergen County; and

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency, it is necessary to use every means at our disposal to implement additional measures, including but not limited to those directed at places of public gathering, in order to flatten the curve of the spread of COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, I, James J. Tedesco, III, as County Executive, do hereby order and direct that:

- 1) The above recitals and the terms and provisions set out in Executive Order No. 2020-01 are incorporated herein as if more fully set forth at length.
- 2) Due to the escalation of the health emergency within Bergen County and the State of New Jersey regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the following places of public gathering are to cease operations due to the inability to provide appropriate “social distancing” in accordance with CDC guidelines:
 - a) Public theaters with fixed seating;
 - b) Movie theaters with fixed seating;
 - c) Performance Halls with fixed seating; and
 - d) All places of public gathering shall otherwise limit attendance at any event or gathering in order to comply with CDC guidelines related to “social distancing,” and the directive issued by the Governor of the State of New Jersey related to gatherings of over 250 persons.
- 3) As to those mandates set forth above in section 2, all local Mayors, governing bodies and authorities for Bergen County municipalities shall immediately enforce the above closure mandates in order to effectuate the terms of this Executive Order, and shall report any non-compliance to the County.
- 4) All workplaces are strongly encouraged to implement and observe CDC workplace social distancing measures, such as replacing in-person meetings with teleworking, modifying, postponing, or cancelling mass gatherings.
- 5) I recommend that all places of public gathering hosting 50 or more persons use their best efforts to record the name, address, phone or other appropriate contact information of all employees, patrons, visitors, vendors or any other persons within their facilities in order to aid health officials in the event contact tracing activities should become necessary in connection with their operations.
- 6) All permitted or organized activities within all County parks and other County facilities are hereby postponed until further notice. The County will discontinue the acceptance or review of any permit applications until further notice.
- 7) The County Zoo shall close to the public and any and all activities planned at the Zoo are hereby postponed until further notice but shall continue those activities necessary for the appropriate care of the animals and maintenance of the facilities.
- 8) The County Chief Financial Officer shall work with the Bergen County Improvement Authority to offer emergency assistance, including but not limited to short term financing, to municipalities, school districts and other public agencies, to address the financial implications resulting from the COVID-19 health emergency, to ensure that debt service obligations and adequate cash flow are maintained.
- 9) In accordance with the Division of Local Government Services guidelines, public meetings may be held in person or by means of communication equipment, to include streaming services and other online meeting platforms. All meetings using communications equipment, must be noticed in a manner consistent with the requirements of state law. Local units should also provide guidance to the public for remotely accessing and providing comment at a meeting. Local units should still have an advertised meeting place, which, is connected through communication equipment, unless otherwise directed by state or local emergency management or health officials.

- 10) This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is determined by me that an emergency no longer exists.
- 11) This Executive Order may be supplemented or amended as the COVID-19 health emergency continues in order to effectuate its purpose and terms set forth herein
- 12) A copy of this Executive Order shall be immediately transmitted to the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James J. Tedesco, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "III" at the end.

James J. Tedesco, III
County Executive

Dated: March 13, 2020