

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

**TO ALL RESIDENTS AND PERSONS WITHIN THE  
COUNTY OF OCEAN  
NEW JERSEY  
AND TO ALL DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE  
COUNTY OF OCEAN  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

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

**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 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 power contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-3, the Emergency Health Powers Act, and remains in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, March 10, 2020, the State of New Jersey recorded its first death attributed to COVID-19, and accordingly the County will implement more aggressive mitigation measures in conjunction with the current containment efforts to combat COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 103 of the Governor directs the activation of County and Municipal emergency operation plans, in order to fully and adequately protect

the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of New Jersey from any actual or potential threat or danger that may exist from the possible exposure to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Ocean is working with federal, state and local officials and authorities on a daily basis on prevention and mitigation activities that include providing critical information to the public about COVID-19 to provide facts and avoid unnecessary fear, training emergency responders and health professionals about the disease and investigating suspected, presumptive and confirmed cases; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that COVID-19 generally presents a low risk to children but seniors, particularly those with underlying chronic medical conditions are at high risk of serious illness from the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, one of Ocean County's priorities as part of the County's preparedness and response planning is to get critical services to those areas where the most vulnerable populations are located and provide vital resources for the support and care of vulnerable populations prior to, during and following an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the powers vested by (Chapter 251 of the laws of 1942 as amended and supplemented, N.J.S.A. App.A:9-30 et seq.; N.J.S.A. 40:48-1 (6); N.J.S.A. 2C:33-1 *et seq.*; whichever law or laws apply, a local emergency is declared to exist within the boundaries of the COUNTY OF OCEAN; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid laws authorize the promulgation of such orders, rules and regulations as are necessary to meet the various problems which are occurring due to such emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, by reason of the conditions currently existing in the County of Ocean affecting the health, safety and welfare of the people of the County of Ocean;

**NOW THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH** the aforesaid laws, it is promulgated and declared that the following regulations be in addition to all other laws of the State of New Jersey and the COUNTY OF OCEAN.

The above recitals are incorporated herein as if more fully set forth at length.

1. A health emergency hereby exists within the County of Ocean regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

2. All necessary County agencies are authorized to take appropriate action to assist municipal governments in containing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from this COVID-19 outbreak.
3. All County Departments and agencies immediately shall implement any and all infectious disease guidelines and protocols and use all personal protective equipment in connection therewith.
4. All County Departments and agencies shall provide all necessary assistance to federal, state and local authorities to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Ocean County during this COVID-19 outbreak, and shall prioritize the most vulnerable county residents served and develop the appropriate contingency plans to avoid any disruption of services. With a special focus on senior centers and Meals-on-Wheels recipients.
5. All County employees shall follow all local, County, State and Federal health recommendations, in addition to Centers for Disease Control recommendations including but not limited to Handwashing, Sanitizing and Basic Infection Control Procedures.
6. There is an immediate ban on all County business related international travel or domestic travel to any states that have reported COVID-19 cases. Similar travel restrictions are strongly recommended to all county businesses.
7. Ocean County residents who are seniors, particularly those with underlying health conditions, are strongly encouraged to avoid large crowds and large gatherings while COVID- 19 remains a threat.
8. All County buildings are hereby closed to the public effective March 16, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. for all non-essential County business. The County further reserves the right to close all public access to any County building to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Ocean County during this COVID-19 outbreak.
9. To combat COVID-19, the County shall be permitted whenever necessary to procure the necessary goods or services, which are not available under contracts currently in existence with the County, without complying with the New Jersey Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 *et. seq.*), including but not limited to the following:
  - a. to award emergency contracts, including but not limited to emergency contracts or leases for relocation and support of County operations for professional services for purchases of commodities, services, and technology;
  - b. to purchase food, supplies, services, and equipment;
  - c. to procure any supplies or equipment required to ensure adequate sanitization, cleaning or sterilization of any facility or location.

10. All County agencies shall take all reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of such vulnerable and at-risk populations, including safe treatment, transfer and discharge practices, and to comply with the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (42 U.S.C. section 1395dd) and any associated regulations.
11. 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.

This declaration will remain in effect until further notice.

Ocean County

Office of Emergency Management

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION



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JOSEPH H. VICARI  
Freeholder Director  
County of Ocean



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Sheriff MICHAEL G. MASTRONARDY  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
County of Ocean