COVID 19 Update
March 24, 2020
Executive Order 107

- March 20 Executive Order
- All employers required to accommodate telework or work-from-home where possible
- Where employees must be onsite, must be kept to minimum number necessary to ensure that critical operations continue
- NJDOE Guidance updated on March 23 provides additional clarification
• Question: In the event of a school closure, are there any non-teaching personnel that may be deemed essential and required to perform certain duties?
• Answer: When developing and updating its emergency preparedness plan, each district will need to consider their specific circumstances to determine which personnel would be considered essential and need to perform some duties during a closure. It is likely that certain staff would be needed in most districts, such as the chief school administrator, to oversee and coordinate operations; the school business administrator, to maintain business office operations; information technology staff, to assist staff using remote access and to implement any online instruction; staff involved in the preparation or delivery of food; and custodial and maintenance staff, to provide access to district facilities, and to clean and sanitize buildings as needed.
Key Principles

• Vast majority of work can be done remotely
• For those who must come in to work, need to observe health and safety protocols of CDC, NJ Department of Health, other relevant agencies
• Need to provide reasonable accommodation of allowing work-from-home for at-risk populations
• NJPSA will be releasing additional guidance
On-Going NJ DOE Initiatives

• Assisting to facilitate and ensure distribution of school meals during the closure period
• Assisting to facilitate collection of unserved meals to local food banks
• Identifying and collecting school stores of Personal Protection Equipment for redistribution to medical facilities and first responders
• Identifying school facilities in disuse due to lack of enrollment, etc. for potential use as medical bed-space, testing sites, or distribution points for medication
Field Services Chain of Communication

FLOW OF INFORMATION TO FIELD

Commissioner Repollet
   ↓
Assistant Commissioner Hasan
   ↓
Director Jeff Gale
Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning
   ↘
Executive County Superintendent
   ⇔
County OEM Coordinator
   ↙
District Superintendent
   ⇔
Municipal OEM Coordinator

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Food Distribution: Things to Consider
Communication

Ensure all eligible school community members are aware of the lunch pick-up site(s), dates and hours of distribution.

School leaders should consider:

• Existing Robo-Call or Similar Methods
• Social Media Options
• Email Capabilities
• Multi-lingual concerns
Meal Distribution

If your meal program is run through the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Program, no signatures or record of individual students served is required. It is necessary to provide only a total count of meals served.

All requests for assistance or to address questions or concerns related to issues including regulations or reimbursement should be directed to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.
Health of the Workers

Remind the workers, if they feel sick or exhibit any symptoms, PLEASE let their supervisor know and do not come to work.
Meal Preparation: Food Safety

CONSIDER:

Utilizing daily screening of food handlers for illness to prevent potential spread of illness

– Do you feel ill?
– Have you developed a cough?
– Are you experiencing shortness of breath?

If yes, may consider sending home.
If no, may consider administering brief thermal temperature scan.

– Follow safe food preparation and handling practices.
– Safe procedures may include:
  – Personal Protection Equipment (Mask/Gloves)
Meal Distribution – On site

Consider a law enforcement or security presence to:

• Address traffic concerns
• Assist with pedestrian crossings, etc.
• Expedite ingress/egress
• Provide general security
Crossing Guards
Main Streets
Meal Distribution – On Site

• Guidelines similar to NJ Dept. of Ag. Summer Feeding
• Grab-and-Go Set Up, *No Congregate Feeding*
• Outdoor locations are preferable
  • Minimizes proximity
  • Facilitates dissipation/ dispersal of aerosol droplets
  • Utilize overhangs, awnings, etc. to address weather concerns rather than indoor locations.
• No contact process is best wherever possible
  • One empty table, receiver waits at short distance while food distributor places meal on table and moves away before pick-up.
  • Food distributor wears PPE (mask/gloves, wipes table down periodically, changes PPE after several service attempts

Remember to Account for food allergies when placing or distributing meals!
Meal Distribution – Off Site

• Transport to Bus Stops
  • Consider that a parent must be present
  • Consider timeliness (running ahead of route schedule/oversleeping)
  • Drop at door, knock, return to bus to avoid contact
  • Situational Awareness!

• Transport to Established Sites
  • Local Pantry/Soup Kitchen
  • Local House of Worship
  • Municipally Owned Sites (Recreation Sites, Municipal Lots, etc.)
  • Security and Safe Access Considerations
MEAL DISTRIBUTION – On Site

“NO CONTACT” MEAL PICK-UP
9 AM – 11 AM ONLY

ONE AT A TIME!

Pull up to “Pick-Up Area”
Exit Car
State Child’s Name(s)
Go to Table
Retrieve your Meals
Leave with “NO CONTACT”

BE PATIENT & FOLLOW DIRECTIONS WITH NO CONTACT
AVOID
Encourage Distancing
(Floor Markings)
Observations Thus Far

Placing all meals on one table risks contamination of bags
• Distributing food indoors risks building contamination.
• Bringing visitors into building negates social distancing.
• Requiring signatures for meals causes delays.
• Requiring signatures for meals may cause shared pens, etc.
• Social Distancing not being adhered to in lines, etc.
• In most districts excessive meals have been prepared.
  • So far, low turnout in many districts is creating food waste.
  • Should the situation be extended, more resources may be required later.
Unserved Meals

• Shelf Stable Food
• Redundant Messaging
  – Language Options
  – Electronic Communication
  – Tried and True Messaging systems
• Preparing only food which is needed
• Donations of remaining food
  – Only reimbursed for food served to students… donated food is not reimbursable!
A Call for Collaboration

We are asking all superintendents to evaluate their school inventory for the following PPE items:

- Latex/surgical gloves,
- Surgical type face masks,
- Protective face shields/eyewear,
- Rubber/surgical boots,
- Temporal/thermal scan thermometers and
- Examination swabs.

Please complete survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRJ9GGB
Requires school districts to provide school meals or meal vouchers to students eligible for free and reduced price school meals during school closures due to COVID-19 epidemic.
Crisis Counseling for Students

Suggestions:

• Establish a designated phone number for students to call the school in the event they are feeling stress and/or anxiety.

• Consider utilizing the district/school guidance counselors, social workers, school psychologist, etc.
Addressing Student Mental Health

Consider role of school counselor, SAC, school psychologist, etc.

Risk Assessment Protocols, working with law enforcement as needed

What to say about coronavirus and COVID-19

- National Association of School Psychologists: “Talking to Parents About COVID-19 (Coronavirus)”
- Child Mind Institute: “Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus”
- CDC: “Talking With Children About Coronavirus Disease 2019”
- WHO: “Helping Children Cope With Stress During the 2019 n-CoV Outbreak”
- WHO: “Mental Health Considerations During COVID-19 Outbreak”
Stigma Related to COVID-19

- According to the CDC, “stigma and discrimination can occur when people associate an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, with a population or nationality, even though not everyone in that population or from that region is specially at risk for the disease.” In this climate, fear and anxiety surrounding COVID-19 can lead to stigma toward Chinese, other Asian Americans, and the Jewish Community. The NJDOE encourages all educators and members of the public to recommit to raising awareness of the deep educational and personal harm brought by stigma, bullying and harassment in our schools, and to spreading factual public health information without fear or stigmatization.
USDA

Frequently Asked Questions on Food Safety

https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus
New Jersey COVID-19 Resources
(live links in blue)

New Jersey Information Hub: [New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub]

- General Questions: 2-1-1 (7a-11p)
- Clinical Questions: 1-800-962-1253 (24/7)
- Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive alerts
- Text your zip code to 898-211 for live text assistance

Key State Resources

- Adults: [Latest Information from the NJ Department of Human Services]
- Children: [Latest Information from the NJ Department of Children and Families]
- Education: [Latest Information from the NJ Department of Education]
- Emergency Preparation: [NJ Register Ready]
- Employment/Unemployment: [Latest Information from the NJ Department of Labor]
- Housing: [Latest Information from the NJ Department of Community Affairs]
- Health: [Latest Information from the NJ Department of Health]
- Medicaid: [Medicaid Information]
- Social Security: [Social Security Information]

Key Community Resources

- The N.J. Council on Developmental Disabilities: [COVID-19 Resources]
- Disability Rights New Jersey
- The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
- NJ 2-1-1 (statewide information and referral services)
- The ARC of New Jersey: [COVID-19 Information Updates]
- Autism New Jersey: [COVID-19 Resource Hub]
- Mental Health Association in New Jersey: [NJ MentalHealthCares]
Drilling Requirements

As the buildings are being occupied by cafeteria staff, do drills still need to occur..?
Resource Links

What you should know:

- Workplace, School, and Home Guidance
- People at Risk for Serious Illness from COVID-19
- How COVID-19 Spreads
- Symptoms
- Steps to Prevent Illness
- Testing
- Frequently Asked Questions
- What to Do If You Are Sick with COVID-19
- Stigma Related to COVID-19
- What You Need to Know
- Facts about COVID-19
- Information for People at Higher Risk and Special Populations
- Communication Resources
Resource Links

Information for Schools and Childcare Providers:

- [Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools](#)
- [Resources for Institutes of Higher Education](#)
- [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations – Community Facilities](#)

**USDA:**

[USDA Makes It Easier, Safer to Feed Children in California Amid Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

**DOE:** [Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)

[Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19](#)
Contacts

General Email

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Thank you…!