



BILL PASCRELL

9th District of New Jersey



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Issues

An Update on the COVID-19 Pandemic

Most Americans are eligible for a \$1,200 economic impact check. Over 2.2 million New Jerseyans have already received theirs.

Learn more about these payments and check your payment status at:

irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments



Follow along on our social media for the latest on on the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Dear Friend:

I want to ensure you have the latest information about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, its impact on our district, and my work in Congress to protect the safety and economic security of North Jersey workers and families amid this terrible crisis.

I would also like to take this chance to remind you to **complete the 2020 Census**. The Census decides how billions of dollars are allocated to our communities that make a

difference in our daily lives. And when you respond to the Census, your answers are kept **anonymous**. And it only takes **five minutes**!

The current [response rate](#) for our district is 50.6%, compared to all of New Jersey at 53.2%. So get counted! **Learn more and complete your 2020 Census now at my2020census.gov.**

My Work in Congress

On Wednesday night, I was glad to be joined by over 9,000 New Jersey residents on my latest COVID-19 Telephone Town Hall. We covered a broad range of topics, including the need for more relief to workers and small businesses and the necessity of improving our testing capability. I was heartened to see so many of us come together Wednesday night in recognition of the urgency needed to fight this. Our community is strong.

Last month, Congress passed the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, legislation that included more than \$2 trillion dollars in assistance for workers, veterans, small businesses, health care systems, and communities dealing with the spread of COVID-19. Crucially, the CARES Act created the Paycheck Protection Program to allow businesses to keep their employees on payroll while their doors are closed. The demand for the Paycheck Protection Program was so great that the initial \$350 billion appropriated in loans was exhausted in just under a week.

Yesterday, Congress passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act to appropriate an additional \$310 billion for the Paycheck Program Program. This legislation also provides another \$60 billion in economic disaster loans for small businesses, \$75 billion in emergency relief for hospitals, and \$25 billion to ramp up coronavirus testing.

Federal Support for New Jersey

To assure our vulnerable populations like those experiencing homelessness have a safe place to quarantine, I [led the New Jersey Congressional Delegation](#) in calling on the Trump administration to approve New Jersey's request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fund an individualized housing program. I'm pleased to share that [FEMA approved](#) that request earlier this month.

Assisted living homes across our state are facing some of the worst of this outbreak. [I called on the U.S. Veterans Administration \(VA\) to provide urgently needed aid to the New Jersey Veterans Home at Paramus](#) (NJ VHP), New Jersey facility, where conditions have resulted in the deaths of 13 veterans and 29 residents. I'm glad to report that last week Governor Murphy announced that the [VA would be sending 90 nurses](#) to New Jersey veterans facilities, including the Veterans Home at Paramus. This assistance

will be absolutely critical to limiting further loss of life and protecting the veterans, residents, and staff at the NJ VHP.

We have already seen the positive impact of Congress's coronavirus emergency legislation in our district. This week I was pleased to announce [\\$2,351,114.87 in Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) public assistance grants to the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management \(OEM\)](#) to aid the county's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Earlier this month, we also announced [\\$14,644,214 for local](#) county and city governments in emergency Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding and [more funding for community health centers](#) in emergency funding to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Last week I announced [\\$63,038,005 in funding for New Jersey to support child care facilities and services](#) amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I also announced a [\\$157,000 supplemental Airport Improvement Fund grant to Teterboro Airport](#) as well as [\\$107,443 to Saint Joseph's Hospital](#) and [\\$146,917 to the City of Paterson](#) to help the community combat HIV/AIDS amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I will continue to fight hard for federal dollars for our community during this crisis.

With the support of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, Governor Murphy has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to secure personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and set up field hospitals. As of April 24, New Jersey has received 290,056 N95 respirator masks, 689,980 surgical masks, 139,143 face shields, 113,935 surgical gowns, 591,270 medical gloves, and 1,550 ventilators from the federal government and private sector to support the needs of our first responders, health care workers, and hospitals.

Additionally, with the support of FEMA, the state has opened field medical stations with 250 beds at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, 250 beds at the Atlantic City Convention Center, 500 beds at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center on Sunfield Avenue in Edison. These pop-up sites will allow for more bed space to relieve overburdened hospitals nearby.

Outlook in New Jersey

As of April 24, there are 99,989 confirmed cases and 5,368 deaths in our state, including approximately 14,053 cases in New Jersey's Ninth Congressional District. While these statistics are tragic, New Jersey has taken swift action to protect its residents.

Governor Phil Murphy has issued a statewide [stay-at-home order](#). You should not leave your home during this time unless it is absolutely necessary. If you must leave your home and will be around others (e.g. in a grocery store or pharmacy), you should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations by [wearing a cloth face covering](#) to protect yourself and others.

New Jersey has required [nonessential businesses](#) like casinos, movie theaters, gyms, hair salons, barber shops remain closed until further notice. Restaurants and bars are limited to take-out and delivery services only. Governor Murphy has also announced the [closure of all state and county parks](#). Additionally, Governor Murphy has imposed [aggressive mitigation requirements](#) on essential businesses like grocery stores and pharmacies to ensure social distancing and hygienic standards are met. While these closures place heavy burdens on all of us, these unprecedented steps are absolutely necessary to safeguard the health of our communities.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 in the state, please visit the New Jersey COVID-19 information hub: covid19.nj.gov/

Resources

My office has prepared fact sheets to ensure workers, families, businesses, and health care providers know their options for relief:

- [Hospitals and Health Care Providers Relief Fact Sheet \(Spanish Translation\)](#)
- [Individuals and Families Relief Fact Sheet \(Spanish Translation\)](#)
- [Small and Medium Sized Business Relief Fact Sheet \(Spanish Translation\)](#)

Additionally, in response to the coronavirus outbreak, the U.S. federal tax and New Jersey state tax deadline have been extended from April 15 to July 15, 2020. Questions? You can learn more [here](#).

Finally, if you have recently lost health coverage due to job loss of yourself or a family member, you are eligible to enroll in quality, affordable health care through the Affordable Care Act. Go to healthcare.gov to enroll and learn more about qualifying life events that allow you to enroll outside of Open Enrollment.

Testing for COVID-19

If you develop symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath or have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, contact your primary care provider or make use of the following resources from the state:

- **Use the COVID-19 Symptom Checker** to determine whether you should seek testing or medical assistance: self.covid19.nj.gov/
- **Call (General COVID-19 Questions):** 2-1-1 (7am-11pm ET)
- **Call (Clinical COVID-19 Questions):** 1-800-962-1253 (24/7)

COVID-19 testing centers for those with symptoms of respiratory illness are open across our district. FEMA had planned to discontinue support for our federally supported testing sites. I joined the New Jersey Congressional Delegation and Governor Murphy in [calling](#)

[on FEMA to continue operate and support these sites](#), and FEMA announced continued support until at least 5/31.

Please read the following information if you need to receive a test:

- **Bergen County:** Bergen Community College
 - Address: 400 Paramus Road (Paramus Campus - Lots B & C), Paramus, NJ 07652
 - Hours: 8:00a-4:00p ET (or until daily test supplies run out). Will be open on Sunday (4/26), Tuesday (4/28), and Thursday (4/30).
 - What To Know: To be eligible for testing, individuals must be current New Jersey residents and experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness. Priority will be given to symptomatic individuals experiencing cough, fever (99.6F or above), and shortness of breath.
- **Bergen County:** Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
 - Address: 230 East Ridgewood Avenue Paramus, NJ 07652
 - Hours: 8a-3p (or until daily test supplies run out).
 - What To Know: This testing center is for Bergen County residents only. You must complete the online screening survey to see if you qualify and set up an appointment at: newbridgehealth.org/bergen-covid19-screening
- **Passaic County:** William Paterson University
 - Address: 300 Pompton Road (Lot 6), Wayne, NJ 07470
 - Hours: 9:00a-12:00p ET (or until daily test supplies run out)
 - What To Know: The testing center is for Passaic county residents only. You must be showing symptoms or respiratory illness and have a prescription or referral from either your physician or an online medical provider.
- **Hudson County:** Hudson Regional Hospital
 - Address: 55 Meadowlands Parkway, Secaucus, NJ 07094
 - Hours: 10a-5:00p ET (or until daily test supplies run out)
 - What To Know: This testing center is for Hudson county residents only or first responders experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness. You must call ahead of time to set up an appointment at 201-388-1097.

Additionally, first responders and health care workers can access appointment-only, drive thru testing sites in the Meadowlands, Deptford, and Somerset. These sites have been opened by the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, in partnership with Accurate Diagnostic Labs. Learn more here: njpba.adlabscovidtest.com.

For more information on testing centers throughout the state, please visit the New Jersey testing [informational page](#).

Healthy Habits

The best way to minimize your risk of infection is practicing **good hygiene** and **social distancing**. If you are able, please **do not go outside except if absolutely necessary**.

I urge you to take care of your health and protect others with these healthy habits:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**, especially after using the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- **Avoid shaking hands**: fist-bump or elbow-bump instead.
- **Avoid touching your face**, particularly your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue**, then throw the tissue out.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects** and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- **Stay home when you are sick** and contact your health care provider immediately if you think you've been exposed to COVID-19. Earned sick leave is the law in New Jersey.
- **Avoid close contact** with other individuals, including avoiding gatherings of over 10 people, and keeping 6 feet distance between yourselves.
- **If you must go outside to a public setting, wear a cloth face covering**. See guidance from CDC on how to make and wear face covering [here](#).

Routine use of these measures can slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives.

We are facing a global pandemic, and ensuring the safety of all families from COVID-19 and its impact on day-to-day life is my top priority. You can always reach me and my staff in Washington at 202-225-5751 or New Jersey at 973-523-5152 for assistance or further guidance. Remember, my door is always open to you. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



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