

Covid-19

Information for 32BJ Members and Families in New Jersey

*****Information is changing rapidly. Visit state agency websites for the latest updates*****

Visit www.CDC.gov for the latest information on Covid-19 and what you can do to stay safe and help to prevent the spread

NJ State COVID-19 information

- Find information about COVID-19 online at covid19.nj.gov
- You can also call 211 for general information, or text NJCOVID to 898-211. Call 1-800-962-1253 to speak to a health care professional.

Free Testing for COVID-19

- **NJ wide:**
 - Testing for COVID-19 is free at NJ testing centers and hospitals, regardless of whether you have a health insurance plan, NJ FamilyCare (Medicaid), or are uninsured. Some test centers require appointments; at other centers you must have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever of 99.6, cough, shortness of breath) to visit. Go to <https://covid19.nj.gov/search.html?query=Testing+Centers+in+NJ> to find a list of testing centers across the state.
- **For City and County testing and screening** (*call first to schedule a test or make an appointment online*):
 - Newark: 973-988-5111
 - Essex County: Schedule a test online at <https://www.essexcovid.org/>
 - Jersey City: 201-547-5535
 - Hudson County: 201-388-1097
 - Union County: 908-214-7107
 - Bergen County: Telehealth screening available by calling 201-204-0712

NJ Job Listings

- The state of New Jersey's "Jobs and Hiring Portal" currently lists over 57,000 job openings from over 800 employers. See the available opportunities here: <https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/>

Food/Nutritional Benefits

- **Food and meals are available at food pantries across New Jersey**
 - To find your nearest food pantry visit: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/pdf/EFO%20%20Listing.pdf>
 - If you are unable to leave your house, contact your local food pantry and ask if they are able to arrange for food to be delivered to you.
 - If the closest food pantry to you is not able to deliver, contact Mutual Morris on 1-800-535-9383 (ext. 1 for English or 2 for Spanish). They are able to arrange delivery of food within Morris County and nearby cities and towns (including Newark) or connect you to an organization in your area.
 - DSA in Central NJ may also be able to arrange for food delivery for Newark residents – phone or message 848-209-6552 or use this [google form](#).
- **Apply online for SNAP:** for assistance paying for groceries, apply online for New Jersey's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) at <https://www.njhelps.org/>. Work requirements to be eligible for SNAP benefits have been suspended due to COVID 19.
- **Apply for NJ's WIC program** (benefits to pregnant women and families with young children) by calling your local WIC agency. You can find a list of agencies at <https://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/participants/find-wic/>
- **School meals continue to be available in many school districts:** Despite school closures, districts are required to keep providing free/reduced lunch to eligible students. Details for school districts can be found at <https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/directory/>. Contact your school district for pick up locations, times and other details. Details for Newark's school meals program are available here: <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/covid-19-resources/breakfast-lunch-program-locations/>

Aid for homeowners and tenants

- **Electricity, gas, phone & cable shutoffs suspended:** NJ electric and gas utilities, as well as all phone and cable providers, have temporarily suspended service shutoffs due to the public health emergency. In addition, a number of phone and cable providers are reducing charges for wifi and data to allow easier access to the internet.
- **Evictions and foreclosures suspended:** by executive order by Governor Murphy, no NJ tenant or homeowner can be removed from their home because of a foreclosure or eviction as long as the order stays in effect.
- **Security deposit able to be used for rent:** The Governor has issued an [executive order](#) allowing tenants to instruct landlords to sue their security deposit for the purpose of paying rent due or set to become due.

Healthcare

- **Health insurance resources:**
 - **Apply online for NJ FamilyCare** (New Jersey's Medicaid/public health insurance program) at <https://njfc.force.com/familycare/quickstart>. Eligibility depends on your income and the size of your family.

- **Help enrolling in health insurance plans from NJ Citizen Action:** If you need help enrolling in NJ FamilyCare or a private insurance plan, you can email NJ Citizen Action at getcovered@njcitizenaction.org to get answers to your questions.
- **Mental health resources:**
 - **Mental Health Hotline -- 866-202-HELP (4357)** offers telephone counseling, emotional support, information and assistance in helping to get mental health services needed by you or a loved one.
 - **Substance Abuse Hotline -- 844-REACHNJ (732-2465)** a 24-hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week addictions hotline where you can get assistance and support from live, New Jersey-based, trained addiction counselors. ReachNJ will assist callers regardless of their insurance status.
 - **State-supported Mental Health Providers --** The state of NJ funds more than 100 mental health service providers throughout the state. See the list of providers here: https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/home/hotlines/MH_DIRECTORY_by_County.pdf.
 - Many offer services on a sliding fee scale, so you will not be denied service if you are unable to pay. Call to confirm with particular offices that they are sliding scale.
- **Expanded access to remote doctor's visits:** NJ FamilyCare (Medicaid) and private insurance plans have been directed to cover remote doctor's visits.

Help with Childcare Costs

- New Jersey is offering reimbursements for childcare costs for essential workers (most 32bj members are considered essential workers). To apply, go to: https://www.childcarenj.gov/Child-Care-for-COVID-19?fbclid=IwAR0351wvBS58NJvEkQsmrFQFK3lpCGzFm0DqhzEEIKSMpspINC17DTQ8w_g

Driver's License, Inspection Stickers & Registration Expirations Postponed

- There is a two-month extension for driver's licenses, inspection stickers, and registrations that would normally expire in March, April and May.
- Expirations in March are postponed to May, April to June, May to July.
- Check the MVC website for updates to these extension periods - <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/>

Charity/Non-Profit Support

- **New Jersey Citizen Action hotlines:** NJ Citizen Action is answering questions about how to enroll for paid leave and unemployment benefits – send questions to needincomesupport@njcitizenaction.org. Send questions about how to enroll for healthcare to getcovered@njcitizenaction.org.
- **The Diabetes Foundation** has opened a hotline for diabetics in need of assistance, including free back up emergency kits. For assistance go to <https://diabetesfoundationinc.org/> or call 973-849-5234

- **The New Jersey Organizing Project** has a lot of information about COVID-19 on its website, <https://covidnj.com/>
- **Make the Road New Jersey** – resources and information with a focus on low-income, immigrant and working New Jerseyans: <https://www.maketheroadnj.org/>
- **Wind of the Spirit – Compiled resources and information available at:** https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NYbmtonm7o25_vDkSQzmmMgsyLPpG1bOkYUdWybqMjM/edit

