



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

262 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
(908) 204-2520. Fax (908) 204-3075. www.bernardshealth.org

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2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Weekly Update #56 – December 24, 2020

Vaccine Planning – What We Know So Far

- The Pfizer vaccine arrived in New Jersey on December 14, 2020.
- The [first COVID-19 vaccine dose was given in New Jersey](#) on December 15, 2020. Vaccinations for frontline healthcare workers at 4 additional NJ hospitals also began this day. As of Friday, December 18, 2020 – a total of 2,149 frontline healthcare workers have received the first dose.
- The Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 16 and older. The Moderna vaccine is approved for ages 18 and older.
- The vaccine will be rolled out in Phases. The timing of each group will be determined by the vaccine supply.
 - Phase 1A – Healthcare workers in healthcare settings, both paid and unpaid, with direct and indirect contact with infectious secretions.
 - Phase 1B – Essential workers [as defined by CDC](#).
 - Phase 1C – Adults ages 65 and older and those with underlying health conditions.
 - Phase 2 – General Public.
- [Six mega-vaccine sites](#) will open early January 2021. These sites will vaccinate healthcare workers not vaccinated by hospitals.
 - Bergen – Racetrack at Meadowlands, East Rutherford
 - Morris – Rockaway Townsquare Mall, Rockaway
 - Middlesex- NJ Convention & Expo Center, Edison
 - Burlington: Moorestown Mall, Moorestown
 - Gloucester: Rowan College of South Jersey, Sewell
 - Atlantic: Atlantic City Convention Center
- There will be more than 200 vaccine sites at hospitals, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, chain pharmacies and other local sites. There are 215 registered to date and more are expected to sign on.
- Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF) will be vaccinated by commercial pharmacies as part of a federal government initiative. Both residents and staff will be vaccinated. This is expected to begin December 28, 2020 starting with veteran's homes and skilled nursing facilities.
- COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs can be found [here](#).
- Women who are pregnant and persons who have allergies to vaccines or are immunocompromised should discuss whether to get the vaccine with their primary care providers.
- The most reported [side effects](#) of the vaccine are injection site reaction like redness, warmth and mild swelling. Fatigue, headache and muscle pain has also been reported in some patients.

COVID FAQ Corner

Q: I tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 3 months. If I get exposed to a positive case or travel, do I have to quarantine?

A: At this time, an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 3 months does not need to quarantine after exposure or travel.

Q: Is the COVID-19 vaccine going to give me COVID-19? I know that's how other vaccines work and I don't want to get sick. I also heard it might alter peoples' DNA.

A: The Pfizer vaccine is an [mRNA vaccine](#). It does not contain the virus. A mRNA vaccine gives instructions to our cells on how to build an immune response and begin making antibodies. The mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell which is where DNA is. After our cells finish "using the instructions" the cells break down the mRNA.

Q: If a COVID-19 vaccine is coming out why do I still have to wear a mask?

A: All tools that can be used to stop a pandemic should be used including social distancing, mask wearing and vaccinations. We are learning about the COVID-19 vaccination in real time and experts need to understand more about the protection that the COVID-19 vaccine provides before changing recommendations.

New Coronavirus Variant

The rapid spread of a new variant of coronavirus has been the center of concern for millions of people in the United Kingdom as restrictions tighten to a strict "Tier 4" as the holidays approach. As information evolves, be sure to follow [credible sources](#).

Updated 12/24/2020

The Bernards Township Health Department is the contractual health agency serving Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Chester Borough, Long Hill Township, Mendham Borough, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough. For update links and more information, visit: <http://www.bernardshealth.org>



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2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Resources and Links

COVID-19 Case Graphs per Municipality – Case counts come directly from raw data imported from Commcare by the Bernards Township Health Department. **Please note: dotted line indicates cases for the current month and is subject to rise from week to week.**

Somerset County

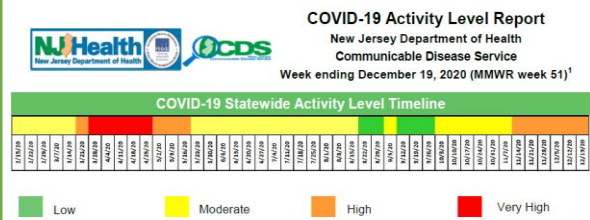
- [Bernards Township](#)
- [Bernardsville Borough](#)
- [Peapack and Gladstone Boroughs](#)

Morris County

- [Chester Borough](#)
- [Long Hill Township](#)
- [Mendham Borough](#)

COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports

- Provides data on COVID-19 transmission by six regions in NJ.
- Updated every Thursday.
- Used to determine school exclusion and other re-openings.
- This week NJ is in **HIGH RISK**
- Click [here](#) to view this week's report ending Dec 19, 2020.



New Jersey COVID-19 Resources

- <https://covid19.nj.gov/> - Visit this webpage to get information on all things COVID-19 in New Jersey.
- COVID-19 New Jersey Dashboard + Positive Test Results available [here](#). Now including trends, hospital census, long term care facilities, psychiatric hospitals, demographics, contact tracing and school info. Updated daily.
- Somerset County NJ COVID-19 Status Dashboard available [here](#).
- Morris County NJ COVID-19 Status Dashboard available [here](#).
- Phone/Text Lines:
 - 2-1-1 for General COVID-19 questions (7am-11 pm)
 - 1-800-962-1253 for Clinical Questions (24/7)
 - Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive alerts
 - Text your zip code to 898-211 for live text assistance

Testing Updates – As of 12/24/20:

- **NJ Testing Sites** – [click here](#) for the most up to date information including new locations and testing criteria.
 - **Morris County** – Sign up for at-home saliva or nasal testing for Morris County residents [here](#).
 - **Somerset County** – Joint testing site with Hunterdon County at Raritan Valley Community College, 118 Lamington Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876. Drive thru testing by appointment only. **Next testing date is Wednesday, December 30th 10am -1 pm.** Subject to change. Check status of test site at <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/covid19status>. Residents of Somerset County ONLY can make an appointment at <https://somerset-hunterdon.adlabscovidtest.com/>.
- Most doctor's offices, urgent cares and hospitals are testing symptomatic patients. If you are feeling unwell, call ahead to your healthcare provider. **DO NOT** just show up to an office, urgent care or ER.
- For more information on testing - [visit the CDC website on testing](#).

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