

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
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Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****DATE: May 22, 2020****Contact: Susan J. Soloway, Freeholder Deputy Director**
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Hunterdon County: 3rd Lowest Number Of COVID-19 Cases In The State

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Hunterdon County rank the third least in the state according to the New Jersey Health Department's dashboard, despite having over 300 positive cases occurring in state prisons and state-licensed long-term care facilities, Hunterdon County Health Officer Karen DeMarco has reported.

DeMarco, an epidemiologist, stated, "Hunterdon County's high level of preparedness and cooperation between the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the County Health Department are factors in the County's low volume of cases relative to other counties."

As of May 21st, Hunterdon County had 922 positive COVID-19 cases with over 300 in the state operated or overseen facilities.

Freeholder Board Deputy Director Sue Soloway, the Board's liaison for the Health Department noted, "Identifying positive cases, contact tracing, and self-quarantine have helped to reduce the spread in the county. Led by our public health nurse team, the County Health Department has been actively engaged in contact tracing since the first COVID-19 case was identified in the County."

The Health Department began contacting a few individuals who returned from China in early February. There have been over 4000 close contacts notified through the program."

Soloway also credited the County's volunteer Medical Reserve Corps for their service, "providing invaluable help, particularly in making the joint Hunterdon Somerset COVID-19 test site at RVCC a success."

DeMarco added, "Over the years, the Health Department and OEM have trained and prepared for a major health emergency, from hazardous materials response to an infectious disease outbreak. The County Health Department maintained an initial stockpile of needed personal protective equipment that has been distributed to medical providers, the Hunterdon Medical Center, long term care facilities, and first responders, protecting those on the frontlines of this emergency, and to minimizing the spread of the virus."

Since the pandemic began, the County's OEM has taken the lead in distributing over 150,000 pieces of personal protective equipment."



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“While the county’s numbers are low, compared to other counties, we feel deeply for those who have dealt with the difficulties of fighting the illness and extend our most heart-felt sympathy to the families and friends of those who were lost to the disease,” Soloway concluded.

For the State dashboard, copy and paste the following address into your web browser:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/index.html>