

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2020

Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder Director

Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon County Moves Employees To Offsite Work To Protect Health And Continue Service To Public

Hunterdon County Freeholder Board Director Shaun Van Doren announced today that County government continues to operate, while employees that are not providing absolutely essential services have been directed to work off site for the next week, to create needed social distancing and protect employees' health.

"The Health Department, 9-1-1 County Communications Center, OEM, and the Sheriff's and Corrections Officers must continue to serve the public and we are tremendously grateful for their continued service," Van Doren said. "Most other employees have been directed to telecommute and work offsite. All employees are on standby for recall to provide assistance where needed."

Several offices including the County Clerk, Surrogate, Human Services, and Administration and Finance, will operate with a minimal staff to ensure that needed public service operations and oversight continues, while observing social distancing requirements.

The Facilities Division and custodial staff, Information Technology, County Garage, and public works crews will continue to perform vital tasks, while road inspections will continue where needed. The Board of Elections office is closed to the public but the staff is present working on the election process for the Special Election on May 12 and the June 2 Primary election.

The County's Parks remain open to the public for passive recreation, however, playgrounds at Park venues have been closed on the recommendation of the County's insurance carrier. Park Rangers will continue to patrol County parks.

The public can access all County offices for regular business via phone and email. To reach the various offices please visit <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/covid19-countyoperations.html>.

"The County's Emergency Management government continuity plan has always anticipated having employees telecommute, work from home, or offsite in the eventuality of an emergency. That plan has been implemented to ensure the safety of the County's personnel, while continuing to provide services to the public," Van Doren said.