



December 9, 2020

Today's News for New Jersey Business: COVID-19 hospitalizations in New Jersey rise to a nearly seven-month high. More hospital emergency rooms are diverting ambulances to other hospitals. The latest information on COVID-19 vaccines.

The State Today Reported 91 Additional COVID-19 Deaths, While Hospitalizations Rose to a Nearly Seven-Month High – New Jersey health officials today reported [91 newly confirmed coronavirus deaths](#). It is the third day this month that 90 or more fatalities were reported. They also reported that the number of patients being treated at the state's hospitals climbed above 3,500 people for the first time in nearly seven months. ([nj.com](#))

More Emergency Rooms are Diverting Ambulances – As COVID-19 cases climb, more hospital emergency rooms are [diverting ambulances to other hospitals](#) because they're too full or short on staffing to care for more patients – and not just COVID-19 patients. (NJ Spotlight News)

The Latest Info on the COVID-19 Vaccines – With approval by the FDA expected within days, officials in New Jersey prepare for rolling out the vaccines across the state. [Here is information on the vaccines and the process to distribute them](#). (NJ Spotlight News)

Hotels and Restaurants Need Federal Aid – That's what the New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association told congressional members yesterday at a virtual roundtable. They say [coronavirus restrictions have hammered the industry](#). (NJ Spotlight News)

Rising Pension Payments Put a Strain on Local Governments – County and local governments across New Jersey are being [hit with as much as a 10% hike in their employer pension costs](#) even as most are reeling from the effects of the pandemic. Will service cuts or higher property taxes be needed to offset the financial stress? (NJ Spotlight News)

Wells Fargo Contributes to the Pandemic Fight – The bank is providing two New Jersey organizations with \$750,000 to [support their COVID-19 recovery efforts](#) – such as microloans to diverse business owners, Wells Fargo said. Union County Economic Development Corp. received \$500,000 and Greater Newark Enterprises Corp. received \$250,000. (ROI-NJ)

Looking at Employee Health Insurance for 2021? – N.J. Chamber of Commerce member companies can enroll in the Members Health Plan that gives you – and your employees – the power of a big employer when it comes to health insurance service and stability of rates. [Find out how you can save](#).

N.J. Coronavirus Cases - New Jersey Residents

(Source: [N.J. Health Department](#))

Total Confirmed Deaths Reported: 15,674

Total Positive COVID-19 Cases Reported: 381,486

For data on hospitalizations and discharges, [click here](#).

Resources

New Jersey small businesses can buy PPE at a 10% discount through this [state program](#).

The N.J. Economic Development Authority is offering assistance programs for New Jersey businesses. Information and applications can be [found here](#).

For the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's guidance on applying for new business grants and acquiring reduced-price PPE, [click here](#).

For the U.S. Chamber's return-to-work playbook for employers, [click here](#).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's [report on reopening and preparing workplaces for COVID-19](#).

The CDC's [recommendations for employers to prevent the spread of the coronavirus](#) when they reopen their offices.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Survival Guide has a complete [listing of coronavirus resources for small businesses](#).

The state's jobs and hiring portal [matches employers and candidates](#).
For employers to participate, [click here](#).

New Jersey's website for [information on all of the state's business resources](#) during the pandemic.

New Jersey's website for [up-to-date information about COVID-19](#).

Have Questions about the Status of an Unemployment Claim? - You can send a message to the state Labor Department through its website – www.myunemployment.nj.gov. Then follow these instructions:

- On the top of the page, scroll to the right for “Need Help” and unveil the drop-down menu
- Choose Send an Email
- Choose Email: Submit a message through the new online form.
- Follow the prompts

To report a scammer or suspected price gouging, alert the N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs at (973) 504-6240 or at <http://njconsumeraffairs.gov>.

The state set up a 24-hour hotline where health care professionals are answering questions about coronavirus. The toll-free number is 1-800-222-1222. From outside the state, call 1-800-962-1253.

The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce is staying on top of Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments. For news media requests, please email [Scott Goldstein](#).

You are welcome to share the information in this newsletter with your members via email, your website or on social media. If you do, please credit the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce with a link to www.njchamber.com.

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