



January 8, 2021

Today's News for New Jersey Business:

Forgivable business loans under the Paycheck Protection Program to reopen next week. Details on the state's new tax incentives for companies. New Jersey's first vaccine megasite opens. Police officer killed at U.S. Capitol was from New Jersey.

Forgivable Business Loans Under the Paycheck Protection Program to Reopen Next Week

– The federal [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\), which provides forgivable loans to businesses, will reopen the week of Jan. 11, the SBA announced today](#). Initially only community financial institutions will be able to make the loans. The loans will be open to all participating lenders “shortly thereafter.” The Program’s eligibility has been expanded to include 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives and direct marketing organizations. (Yahoo News)

Be Prepared to Apply for a Loan – The N.J. Chamber suggests that any organization interested in applying for a PPP loan begin discussions with their bank now so they can be ready to fill out the application as soon as it is available.

Details on New Jersey’s New Economic Recovery Act – Gov. Phil Murphy said the legislation – which includes the return of tax incentives for companies that create new jobs in New Jersey – will provide relief for businesses while transforming economic development in the state. [Here’s a breakdown of the six-year, \\$14 billion package of programs](#). (ROI-NJ)

The First Vaccine Mega-Site Opens – [A former Sears at a shopping mall in Rockaway opened Friday morning as the first of six planned “mega-sites”](#) New Jersey is setting up for mass vaccinations for the coronavirus, though rollout of the vaccine continues to be slower than officials want. ([nj.com](#))

The COVID-19 Vaccine is Completely Covered by Insurance and Those Without Insurance Won’t Be Charged – The CDC negotiated a deal with vaccine providers that requires them to accept whatever insurance covers as payment, [Gov. Murphy said](#). And people without insurance would not be charged, he said. ([nj.com](#))

Newark Schools Push Back In-Person Instruction to April – Newark Public Schools, the state’s largest school district, announced Wednesday that students would [continue with remote classes until April 12](#) due to the pandemic. Students had been scheduled to begin returning to in-person classes on Jan. 25. ([nj.com](#))

Weekly Unemployment Claims Keep Rising – More than 1.9 million New Jersey workers have applied for unemployment insurance since the start of the pandemic, and [new claims have risen for five straight weeks](#), the state Department of Labor said. ([nj.com](#))

Police Officer Killed at Capitol Was From New Jersey – The police officer killed when a violent mob of President Donald Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday is a New Jersey native, Gov. Murphy said. [Brian D. Sicknick, 42, was a graduate of Middlesex County Vocational Technical High School’s East Brunswick Campus and grew up in South River](#), the governor said Friday. ([nj.com](#))

Gov. Murphy Deploys 500 Members of New Jersey’s National Guard to D.C. – The deployment will likely last through at least the inauguration on Jan. 20, Murphy said. The [500 members of the Guard will supplement the 74 New Jersey State Police troopers who were sent to Washington on Wednesday](#). (Politico)

Inauguration Day Will be Sunny – Joe Biden will be [sworn in as president at noon on Jan. 20](#). Most of the events will be conducted remotely. Biden will walk one block along Pennsylvania Avenue from 15th Street to the White House with a socially distanced presidential escort, featuring every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The long-range forecast calls for the weather to be sunny and 40 degrees. ([nj.com](#))

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: 17,697

Total Positive COVID-19 Cases Reported: 516,608

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 state is offering [assistance programs for New Jersey businesses](#).

The U.S. Chamber [return-to-work playbook for employers](#).

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 [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 [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](#). Follow these instructions:

- On the top of the page, look to the top right for “Need Help?” and unveil the drop-down menu
- Choose 'Send an Online Message'
- Choose 'Submit a message through our 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](#).

