



COVID-19 OBSERVATION & PROTECTION SUMMARY (C.O.P.S.)

NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR FURTHER DISSEMINATION WITHOUT EXPRESSED WRITTEN PERMISSION OF NJROIC THREAT ANALYSIS UNIT

NJ LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA & TRENDS

Total Arrests Statewide Reported by SBI (4/29-5/5 vs 5/6-5/12)

- Arrests decreased from 1,161 to 1,030 (-11.3%)

Pandemic-Related Crime Arrests Reported by SBI (4/29-5/5 vs 5/6-5/12)

- Burglaries decreased from 77 to 49 (-36.4%)
- Robberies decreased from 15 to 4 (-73.3%)
- Shoplifting decreased from 54 to 44 (-18.5%)
- Weapons possession increased from 37 to 40 (+8.1%)

Shooting Hit Environment (5/6-5/12 this year compared to same time last year)

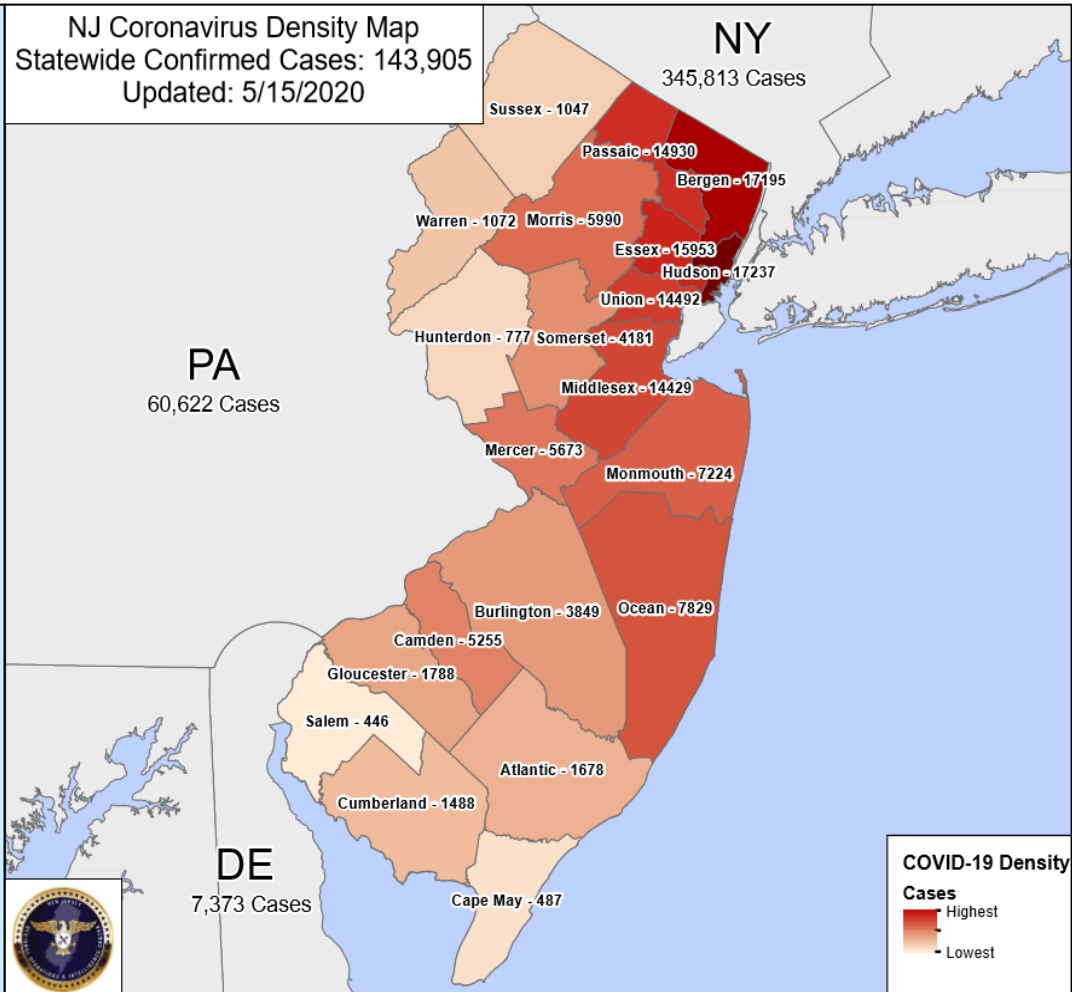
- Shooting hit victims decreased from 20 to 8 (-60%)
- Shooting homicide victims decreased from 4 to 0 (-100%)
- Total shooting victims decreased from 24 to 8 (-67%)
- Shooting hit incidents decreased from 13 to 8 (-38%)
- Shooting murder incidents decreased from 4 to 0 (-100%)
- Total shooting incidents decreased from 17 to 8 (-53%)

Crimes

- Fraud
 - Reference FBI LIR: Indicators of Fraudulent 3M PPE (TLP: GREEN)
- Statewide Bail Scam
 - Reference 9:15am COVIDstat notes & PSA for additional information
- Compliance Violation Reports Reported by County (as of 5/12): 3,277
- COVID-19 Crime Reports Reported by County (as of 5/12): 262
 - Collected as incidents, not by arrests (ex. could be 4 arrested in 1 incident)
- Bias threats/attacks - Orthodox Jewish & East Asian communities
- Spitting/coughing on LE/citizens while claiming to be infected with COVID-19

NJ Coronavirus Density Map

Statewide Confirmed Cases: 143,905
Updated: 5/15/2020



OFFICE OF DRUG MONITORING & ANALYSIS

- NJ's Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) has created a "New Jersey Resource Guide" to provide partners and the public with a comprehensive directory of programs, links, and information to relevant national, state, and county resources for a variety of topics.
- For law enforcement use, these topics include recovery support, social services, mental health, crisis, food bank, emergency shelter, business, home, and first responder resources.
- DMI recently updated the testing sites information for first responders and added 'Substance Use Disorder & Treatment Services' and 'Grief Support Services' tabs to the Resource Guide.

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REPORTED IN OTHER NORTHEAST STATES

- While traffic on highways is generally down, fatal accidents are up 40% due to excessive speeds (reported by one state).
- Increase in MV thefts. The reporting state's fusion center assesses the same crews involved, but they are seeing increased activity.
- Incidents with registered sex offenders receiving phone calls demanding money due to a missed DNA test or they will be arrested again.
- Some county officials and legislators are announcing plans to move their county into a phase closer to reopening the state than their governor authorized.
- Event scheduled for 5/16 in which the participants plan to ride bikes, scooters, dirt bikes, etc. on roadways/highways.
- Large amounts of unemployment fraud.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING SURVEY-5/15 UPDATE (397 AGENCIES REPORTING)

⇒ 1670 Total LE Out

- 495 LE Statewide COVID Positive
 - Decrease by -2.75% last 24 hours
- 368 Statewide Quarantined Other
 - Decrease by -0.81% last 24 hours
- **863 Total Quarantined (Includes COVID19+)**
- 807 Statewide Out for other reasons
 - Increase +13.82% last 24 hours
- 28 Total LE returning to Duty (within the next 48 hours)
 - 7 COVID-19 & 21 Self-Quarantined
- 11 Total Line of Duty Deaths
- Top impact Counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic
- *Analytical Note: Decreases may be due to less than usual survey reporting*
- **Total available LE force: 29,330 | -5.39% (Decrease) from pre-COVID-19 outbreak availability**

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)

- "(U) The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are issuing this announcement to raise awareness of the threat to COVID-19-related research. The FBI is **investigating the targeting and compromise of U.S. organizations conducting COVID-19-related research by PRC-affiliated cyber actors and non-traditional collectors**. These actors have been observed **attempting to identify and illicitly obtain valuable intellectual property (IP) and public health data related to vaccines, treatments, and testing** from networks and personnel affiliated with COVID-19-related research. The potential theft of this information jeopardizes the delivery of secure, effective, and efficient treatment options." - Source: (U) FBI/CISA PSA: People's Republic of China (PRC) Targeting of COVID-19 Research
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reports the following: "As of May 11, 2020, People's Republic of China (PRC) nationals who seek admission to the United States under the **"I" nonimmigrant (foreign media/journalists)** visa classification, excluding both Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Macau SAR passport holders, **will no longer be admitted for Duration of Status "D/S"** and will now be admitted for the time necessary to complete his/her current assignment, **not to exceed 90 days**. This action is being taken due to the US Government determining that the **PRC is not treating journalists (both foreign and US) in a reciprocal manner that aligns with US foreign policy**." - Announced on 11 May 2020
- Informative Report—Congressional Research Service: [COVID-19 and China: A Chronology of Events \(December 2019-January 2020\)](#)

NJ WHITE SUPREMACIST EXTREMISTS EXPLOITS COVID-19

- "(U//FOUO) As a result of the State isolation and social distancing procedures to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals are increasingly using the Internet as a substitute for face-to-face interaction. Although online connectivity can be a healthy behavior in lieu of physical proximity, research suggests feelings of isolation and loneliness can amplify an individual's need for acceptance and potentially increase the risk of online radicalization. **As of March 30, New Jersey had a 41 percent increase in engagement with white supremacist-related content online, according to a London-based data analytics company.**
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Jersey, extremist groups and individuals have altered their rhetoric, both online and in person, to use the COVID-19 virus as a way of validating their ideology and attempting to recruit new members. **One group, the New Jersey European Heritage Association (NJEHA), has distributed flyers at least 147 times since March, showing its attempts to incite individuals and recruit new members in the State.**
- **Social media intelligence and analysis determined white supremacist groups have saturated social media networks with content, resulting in an increase in viewership engagement."**
- Source: NJ ROIC & NJOHSP Joint IDR: (U//FOUO) NJ White Supremacist Extremists Exploit COVID-19, dated 15 May 2020

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TRANSPORTATION

Travel by Rail (Ridership Stats)

- **Amtrak:** Down 90% across country (modified schedule). **Mandatory facemask policy for Amtrak trains and stations went into effect Monday, 11 May 2020.**
- **NJ Transit:** Down 90% system-wide (modified schedule).
- **PANYNJ:** Down 60-70% (modified schedule with 10 min headway between trains).
- **PATCO:** Down 85% (modified schedule with 20 min headway between trains).
- **SEPTA:** Operating on Lifeline Schedule. Transit down 91% (with backdoor boarding/no fares), and regional rail down 99%.
 - SEPTA will return to regular transit schedules, front door boarding, and fare collection beginning on Sunday, 17 May 2020.
 - Service will continue to be available for essential travel only until further notice.

TRANSPORTATION

Travel by Air

- **Nationwide passenger traffic** remains down -92% from previous year.
- **COVID at TSA:** To date, a confirmed 564 employees, both screeners and non-screeners, tested positive for COVID-19.
 - 353 employees recovered, and 6 (2 employed at Newark) died as a result of the virus.
 - [TSA Travel Numbers 2019-2020](#)
- TSA is seeing a **continuing rise in passenger traffic**.
- **Newark Airport** has experienced a total of 61 cases, including 52 TSA screeners and 9 non-screeners.
- **Airlines Note:** American, Delta, Jet Blue, Frontier and United **now require face-masks on all passengers from the time they check in until they deplane.**

TSA Nationwide

Dates	Weekly Average Total Traveler Throughput 2020	Weekly Average Total Traveler Throughput 2019	YOY% Change
Week 3/1/2020-3/7/2020	2,022,471.4	2,255,025.6	-10.31%
Week 3/8/2020-3/14/2020	1,762,502.4	2,369,585.1	-25.62%
Week 3/15/2020-3/21/2020	896,075.3	2,401,426.3	-62.69%
Week 3/22/2020-3/28/2020	270,246.9	2,371,600.4	-88.60%
Week 3/29/2020-4/4/2020	141,219.9	2,278,332.6	-93.80%
Week 4/5/2020-4/11/2020	104,158.9	2,329,198.7	-95.53%
Week 4/12/2020-4/18/2020	95,674.0	2,359,849.4	-95.95%
Week 4/19/2020-4/25/2020	106,586.1	2,353,139.9	-95.47%
Week 4/26/2020-5/2/2020	134,255.7	2,327,408.1	-94.23%
Week 5/3/2020-5/9/2020	168,691.9	2,357,820.1	-92.85%
Week 5/10/2020-5/14/2020	198,252.0	2,415,563.0	-91.79%
Month	Average Monthly Throughput 2020	Average Monthly Throughput 2019	YOY% Change
March	1,133,532.3	2,344,518.2	-51.65%
April	109,566.9	2,337,486.4	-95.31%
May	176,995	2,364,062	-92.51%
% change March to April	-90.33%	-0.30%	
% change April to May	61.54%	1.14%	

Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR)

Dates	Weekly Average Total Traveler Throughput 2020	Weekly Average Total Traveler Throughput 2019	YOY% Change
Week 4/26/2020-5/2/2020	1,986.7	6,2845.3	-96.84%
Week 5/3/2020-5/9/2020	2,471.0	6,5562.6	-96.23%
Week 5/10/2020-5/14/2020	2,844.8	6,8184.8	-95.83%

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NJ CYBERSECURITY & COMMUNICATION INTEGRATION CELL (NJCCIC)

- **COVID-19 email/social media-based phishing scams:** Attempt to convince recipients to open links or attachments to direct users to malicious websites or deliver malware, reveal sensitive information, or donate to fraudulent causes.
- **Malicious COVID-19 websites** distributed via emails, malicious advertisements, and social media. Approx. 4,000 coronavirus-themed websites created since January 2020, with at least 5% deemed malicious.
- **The Garden State Network's email content filtering systems detected and blocked 8x as many emails referencing COVID-19 between March-April 2020 compared to January-February 2020.**
- **Threat actors** are likely to take advantage of the rapid increase of telework and attempt to remotely access networks and hide within the increased remote traffic.
- **Threat actors** will likely target individuals and small businesses with payday loan and quick cash scams related to the stimulus package or other relief efforts.
- **Additional information**
 - [NJCCIC's Weekly Bulletin](#)
 - [NJCCIC's Telework Program Security Recommendations](#)

NARCOTICS SEIZURES BY CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

- "(U//FOUO) The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Intelligence New York Field Intelligence Group (NYFIG) compared **drug seizures of the five main drug types—cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, and fentanyl—in the NYFIG Area of Responsibility (AOR) from 1 February 2019 through 26 April 2019 to the same time period this year.**"
- "(U//FOUO) The NYFIG discovered that as the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged communities in the Northeast, especially New York City, seizures of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine in the express consignment (ECO) and mail environments **increased compared to last fiscal year.**"
- "(U//FOUO) During this same time frame, **marijuana seizure incidents dropped 59 percent** from the same time period last year and, due to data discrepancies, fentanyl incidents cannot be accurately compared."
- "(U//FOUO) Likely due to travel restrictions, CBP seizures of **all drug types in air passenger and land environments have nearly ceased.**"
- "(U//FOUO) COVID-19 related restrictions are likely **causing drug smugglers to become more creative** with the methods they use for avoiding detection of their products. Smugglers have recently hidden drugs in packages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and amongst a shipment of squid in a cargo container."
- *Source: (U//FOUO) COVID-19 Effects: Baltimore to Maine Narcotics Seizures, dated 12 May 2020*

OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE

The ROIC recognizes that Americans have constitutionally protected rights to assemble, speak, and petition the government. The ROIC safeguards these First Amendment rights, noting that violent extremists could disrupt legal activities, interfering with otherwise peaceful events.

Monitoring & Reporting:

- The Cyber Threat Intelligence Unit (CTIU) provided key intelligence reporting of potential mass social distancing violations to its state, county, and municipal partners for heightened caution and situational awareness.
- CTIU is monitoring the Bergen County Community College and PNC Bank Arts Center FEMA testing sites.
- Social Media monitoring has **not** detected public safety concerns at long-term care facilities.

Information & Analysis:

- CTIU and Threat Analysis co-authored an IDR related to COVID-19 demonstrations trends and tactics in NJ awaiting dissemination.

Rallies/Protests:

- 16 May: Stand Together Open NJ
 - Newton, Sussex County
- 16 May: Open NJ Small Business Protest on the Water
 - Navasink River Blossom Cove, Red Bank, Monmouth County
- 21 May: Rison Advocacy Community
 - Trenton War Memorial, Mercer County
- 22 May: United As One NJ
 - Downtown Trenton, Mercer County
- 22 May: NJ United We Stand
 - Morristown Green, Morristown County
- 23 May: Parade to Honor Vets
 - Bodman Park, Red Bank, Monmouth County
- 25 May: Beaches: Liberate NJ Freedom
 - Seaside Heights, Ocean County

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FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING STATEWIDE— 5/11 UPDATE

Key Findings

- Fire personnel survey opened from 7:00AM, Thursday, May 7 until 12:00PM, Monday, May 11
- **420** responses
 - 4% decrease from last week's 436
 - 59% of departments statewide
- **19,603** fire personnel accounted for via survey
 - 56% of total statewide, which is ~35,000
- **1,133** total fire personnel out via survey
 - **171** fire personnel tested COVID-19 positive
 - 10% decrease from last week
 - **3** are being hospitalized (1-Bergen; 1-Morris; 1-Union)
 - 40% decrease from last week
 - **188** fire personnel are self-quarantining for possible exposure
 - No change from last week
 - **774** fire personnel are out for other reasons
 - 6.5% decrease from last week
- **18,470** total fire personnel available for duty via survey
 - **33,867** total personnel available based on known statewide number ~35,000
- **162** fire personnel recovered from COVID-19 and returned to work
 - 62% increase from last week
- **998** fire personnel previously quarantined and have since returned to full duty
 - 16% increase from last week
- **Majority of departments (92%) report they are at 90-100% working capacity**
 - Mercer, Morris, Ocean, and Sussex each report one department at 50% working capacity or less
 - Byram FD (Sussex) reports 50% personnel availability
 - 4 self-quarantined
 - 26 out for other reasons
- **62%** of reporting departments indicate PPE may become critical
- **42%** of reporting departments indicate cleaning supplies/staff may become critical
- **9%** of reporting departments indicate support personnel (EMTS/volunteers) may become critical
- **16%** of reporting departments indicate rapid C19 testing/antibody testing may become critical

PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP/911 CALL CENTERS) SURVEY—5/13 UPDATE

9-1-1 Call Volume:

- The previous reports of a general uptick in medical calls seems to be flattening out as several PSAPs that previously reported increases in EMS calls are reporting a downward trend towards "normal".
- We are continuing to see some reports of a rise in domestic violence calls as well as administrative inquiries.
- This reporting period, 0 PSAPs reported their 9-1-1 call volume as much higher.
- During this reporting period, only 7 counties had PSAPs reporting their call volume was somewhat higher.
- 10 PSAPs reported their call volume was somewhat higher than normal.
- The remaining 119 PSAPs reported the call volume continues to be much lower, somewhat lower, or the same, with some PSAPs continuing to report that while overall call volume is down, EMS and administrative calls are higher.

Staffing Concerns:

- During this reporting period, there continues to be no reports of serious staffing concerns.
- Of the 129 PSAPs responding, 3 PSAPs reported staffing concerns as bad.
- 58 PSAPs reported staffing either good or very good.
- The remaining 68 PSAPs were neutral in their staffing concerns.

Staff Shortages Related to COVID-19:

- 13 PSAPs reported staffing issues to some extent related to COVID-19 (either a staff member was quarantined without testing positive or tested positive).
- Of the 13 PSAPs reporting COVID-19 related staffing issues, 2 PSAPs reported staffing concerns as bad.
- 22 PSAPs indicated they have had call takers/dispatchers as confirmed COVID-19 positive.
- 16 PSAPs indicated they have call takers/dispatchers that are currently under quarantine.
- 40 PSAPs indicated they've had call takers/dispatchers that have returned from quarantine.
- During this reporting period no PSAPs reported any call taker/dispatcher COVID-19 related deaths.

The staff of the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services (OETS) will continue our efforts to increase participation in the surveys going forward. OETS staff continue to engage with each County 9-1-1 Coordinator during the pandemic.

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5G CONSPIRACY THEORIES

- “(U//FOUO)...conspiracy theories linking the spread of COVID-19 to the expansion of the 5G cellular network are inciting attacks against the communications infrastructure globally...**threats probably will increase as the disease continues to spread, including calls for violence against telecommunications workers.**”
- “(U//FOUO) Violent extremists have encouraged attacks targeting 5G infrastructure in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic, **claiming that 5G technology weakens human immune systems, resulting in the accelerated spread of the virus**, according to DHS open source reporting. Calls for attacks have included **(arson and) tactical guidance for disabling radio towers near pandemic-stricken cities** and come from a variety of violent actors, including racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs) and at least one individual who posted a foreign terrorist organization-inspired image.” - Source: (U//FOUO) DHS HIA: 5G, COVID-19 Conspiracy Theories Inciting Attacks Against Communications Infrastructure

THREAT ANALYSIS UNIT—ANALYST NOTE—PUBLIC SAFETY

- We continue to see the mobilization of anti-vaccination proponents in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe, as the [Plandemic](#) conspiracy theory video that recently circulated social media shows. This will likely be an ongoing issue for civil unrest, especially in the event of a mandated vaccination. Those that are pro-vaccination will likely counterprotest as well as a significant percentage of people refusing to take the vaccine may jeopardize [‘herd immunity’](#).

NJOHSP FACTS ON COVID-19 RUMORS AND DISINFORMATION

- A [false infographic](#) circulated on social media appears to contain information from legitimate health organizations, but it intentionally promotes purposely infecting public spaces with COVID-19.
- [False information](#) in the form of audio, texts, and social media postings have stated that the use of ibuprofen can exacerbate COVID-19 symptoms and strengthen the virus.
- No action is needed by most Americans to receive the COVID-19 economic stimulus check. Beware of [scams](#) via mail, phone, email, and social media that ask you to verify your identity or pay a “processing fee.”
- A police department in Maine warned of a potential [phishing scam](#) telling text message recipients that someone they recently came in contact with tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms.
- [Emails and social media posts](#) describing a self-check exercise to determine if an individual has COVID-19. Self-check assessments are not recommended at this time.
- A [false letter/press release](#) with joint seals of federal and State agencies states New York residents cannot enter New Jersey starting May 10 due to COVID-19.
- A [vignette](#) circulating online from an upcoming documentary, *Plandemic*, attempts to disrupt public health efforts with conspiracy theories about COVID-19 and the pharmaceutical industry.
- [False information](#) online says including hot pepper to one’s diet will prevent or cure COVID-19.
- Several [home remedies](#) circulating online falsely claim to prevent or cure COVID-19.
- [NJOHSP Rumor Control/Disinformation Updates](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS

[NJ Department of Health: Current COVID-19 Cases](#)
[Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Dashboard](#)
[State Employee FAQs](#)
[MVC Updates](#)
[Police Foundation COVID-19 Resources for LE](#)
[CDC COVID-19 Guidance for Law Enforcement](#)
[EMS Dispatch Cards](#)
[OSHA’s Rule Relaxation \(N95’s\)](#)
[NJOHSP Rumor Control/Disinformation Updates](#)
[Executive Order 107 Violation Reporting Form](#)
[PPE Donations Intake](#)
[New Jersey Executive Orders](#)
[New Jersey Administrative Orders](#)
[NJCCIC Telework Tips](#)
[Police One](#)
[NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police - COVID-19 Resources](#)
[International Association of Chiefs of Police](#)
[DMI New Jersey Resource Guide](#)
[Certified Childcare Facilities for Essential Employees](#)
[CDC COVID-19 Information for EMS & PSAPs](#)
[FEMA Coronavirus Response](#)
[DHS COVID-19 Information for First Responder Community](#)

Note: If you need more information on any products, reports, or links in this document, please contact the NJ ROIC Threat Analysis Unit at the following email: NJROICTHREAT@NJSP.ORG

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