

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FROM TRENTON

FOR NEW JERSEY'S THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



February 2021

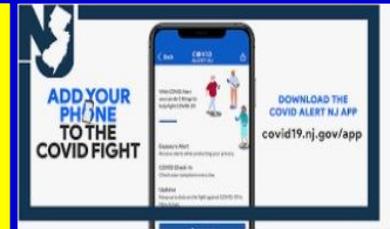
COVID-19 Vaccine: The Latest



Senate President Sweeney, Deputy Speaker Burzichelli, and Assemblyman Taliaferro continue to urge federal and state government agencies to effectively and efficiently coordinate the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination to constituents. Amid reports of vaccine supply issues and registration concerns, your Third District lawmakers encourage constituents to utilize the resources below to pre-register for the vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

- ▶ Pre-registration website for the vaccine: <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov>
- ▶ New Jersey COVID-19 Phone Line: 855-568-0545
- ▶ Gloucester County COVID-19 Hotline: 856-218-4142
- ▶ Cumberland County Department of Health: 856-327-7602
- ▶ Salem County Health & Human Services: 856-935-7510 ext. 8421



COVID-19 Related Legislation & Actions

⇒ Senate President Sweeney joined a [bipartisan effort](#) to introduce legislation that would provide the New Jersey Economic Development Authority with \$300 million for grants and loans to help small businesses and nonprofits rebound from the COVID-19 crisis. The bill would provide aid not only to small businesses and nonprofits that lost revenue during the economic shutdowns and slowdowns caused by the coronavirus crisis, but also to those whose business opening plans were disrupted by COVID-19 and those who fill vacant storefronts or under-utilized space with new operations.

“Small business is the backbone of our communities and the biggest source of new job creation,” said Senate President Sweeney. “This \$300 million investment will speed up our economic recovery from the pandemic, prevent more businesses and nonprofits from closing, and create jobs for workers who have been on the unemployment rolls for almost a year.”

⇒ The New Jersey Senate passed [legislation](#) co-sponsored by Senate President Sweeney and Deputy Speaker Burzichelli that would establish a county-based mitigation plan to allow businesses to operate during a pandemic. The bill would direct the Governor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to develop and implement a color-categorized (**red, yellow, green**) mitigation plan to allow businesses to operate during a pandemic that is affecting the State. Under the bill, the risk of the disease spreading within the State would be categorized by color, establishing appropriate thresholds for reaching each category. The following colors would be used as a category of risk:

- Red** = indicates an active outbreak and is the **highest level of risk**
- Yellow** = indicates the risk of an outbreak is **moderate**
- Green** = indicates the risk of an outbreak is **low**

“By implementing a color-coded reopening system for New Jersey based on local conditions and data, we will be able to effectively keep the economy open in correlation to how the virus is spreading in a specific area,” said Deputy Speaker Burzichelli.

⇒ Building on a social, emotional learning model developed by the Clayton school district, [legislation](#) co-sponsored by Assemblyman Taliaferro to create a five-year pilot program to expand the Clayton model to schools across New Jersey has cleared an Assembly Panel. The Clayton initiative targets the development of students’ social and emotional skills, creates safe and caring learning environments by integrating peer and family activities, improving classroom management and teaching practices and organizing school-wide community-building activities.

“As we plan our recovery from the socially-isolated reality of COVID-19, programs that help our children thrive academically, socially and personally will be all the more important,” said Assemblyman Taliaferro

- ⇒ Sweeney [legislation](#) allocating \$180 million to help facilities that care for those who live with developmental disabilities clears Senate committee
- ⇒ A Senate committee approved [legislation](#) sponsored by Senate President Sweeney that would help schools and small businesses upgrade their water and ventilation systems to protect the health of students, educators, customers and workers