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Date: 3/20/2020 1:09:15 AM

Subject: Fwd: FW: DLGS Guidance on Public Meetings During Health Emergency

Attachments: [Health_Emergency_-_Public_Meeting_Guidance.docx](#)

[COVID LE Guidance 2020 0316 FINAL.pdf](#)

[NJ EO-104.pdf](#)

[PR Treasury Limited Closures.pdf](#)

[PR COVID Roundup PDF.PDF](#)

Good Evening (or morning): Hope everyone is staying safe.

1) Please see attached on public meeting guidance. There are also other attachments of reference.

2) Fufill is available to help families in financial need right now. If you know families in your school district that may be specifically going through a difficult time, please connect them with Fufill or with me and I'll be happy to navigate for them. For any families who are going through a difficult time or expect to, please connect me to them as there are resources that can help. We also have programs and resources for restaurants, coffee shops etc.

3) We are working on a number of bills and legislation. I will send out a full report next week. The senate has an emergency meeting Thursday (today) to pass the below bills and many others. We are also working a big economic assistance program.

— [NJ A3095 \(20R\)](#): Provides county clerks with additional week to mail ballots for 2020 primary election;

— A3839: Makes supplemental appropriation of \$20 million from General Fund to DOE to support school facility cleaning and sanitization;

— A3840: Requires school districts to provide school meals or meal vouchers to students eligible for free and reduced price school meals during school closures due to Covid-19 epidemic;

— A3841: Extends time to file gross income tax or corporation business tax return by one month;

— A3843: Requires health insurance and Medicaid coverage for testing and treatment of the coronavirus disease 2019, and for telemedicine during the coronavirus disease 2019 state of emergency;

— A3844: Concerns business interruption insurance during the coronavirus disease 2019 state of emergency;

— A3846: Creates "Temporary Lost Wage Unemployment Program" to allow persons to claim for lost wages due to the coronavirus disease 2019;

— A3847: Provides paid leave without utilizing accumulated leave for local government employees under certain circumstances;

— A3848: Concerns time off from work in connection with infectious disease;

— A3849: Permits public agency to respond to request for government record within 21 calendar days during period of emergency or other exigency;

— A3850: Allows local government agencies to meet electronically during declared Public Health Emergency or State of Emergency;

— A3851: Extends deadlines for adoption of county and municipal budgets under certain circumstances;

— A3852: Allows conduct of state business and legislative sessions at locations other than Trenton during periods of emergency or other exigency, allows conduct of legislative business using electronic means;

— A3855: Requires food access information be displayed on websites of 2-1-1 system and executive branch departments during public health emergencies;

— A3859: Concerns prohibition of residential tenant eviction and eviction due to residential

foreclosure during certain emergency circumstances;

— ACR165: Urges DHS to apply for federal waivers to facilitate and increase access to SNAP benefits during the coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak;

— AJR158: Urges FCC to take temporary measures to secure broadband access for those affected by Covid-19.

4) Please see below state updates

Human Services

The Department of Human Services sent to county and municipal welfare agencies guidance on enacting cautionary health and safety preventative measures in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), specifically as it relates to the temporary cessation of certain requirements for the Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) and New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP). The guidance is attached.

Labor

In accordance with Chief Justice Rabner's COVID-19 Notices to the Bar, and in consultation with Workers' Compensation Executive Committee of the NJ Bar Association, Chief Judge of Compensation Russell Wojtenko, Jr. has closed Workers' Compensation courts to the public in a similar fashion as all NJ Municipal Courts and Landlord Tenant Courts.

While those courts are closed for two weeks, operationally it is more efficient and convenient for all attorneys, litigants and court staff to adjourn all WC matters for three weeks as workers' compensation courts routinely operate in three week cycles. A three week adjournment in workers' compensation is a routine and frequent occurrence and will cause a minimal disruption to the WC system if any.

In addition, Emergent Motions for Medical and Temporary benefits will continue without interruption to the extent possible, including the use of telephonic and video technology. Filings will also continue to be accepted electronically through COURTS On-line.

Also NJDOL has updated it's page for guidance for employers. <https://www.nj.gov/labor/employer-services/business/covid.shtml>

And employees <https://www.nj.gov/labor/worker-protections/earnedsick/covid.shtml>

DEP

Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe announced today that public may still access the State Parks, forests, recreation areas and Wildlife Management Areas, including roads, parking areas, trails, lakes and other open space areas for healthful passive recreation. However, campgrounds, visitor centers, nature centers, restrooms and similar facilities at state parks, forests, recreation areas, Wildlife Management Areas and historic sites are closed until further notice in order to protect public health and safety as the state works to address COVID-19.

MVC

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator Sue Fulton has announced that all New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission agency and road testing facilities will be closed effective immediately as a measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We anticipate re-opening in two weeks, on Monday, March 30, 2020. All driver licenses, non-driver IDs, vehicle registrations, and inspection stickers expiring before May 31 have been extended by two months. Most renewals, replacements, changes of address, and other transactions can be processed online at NJMVC.gov

OAG

Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced today that, in an effort to protect the public by limiting in-person contact that could result in the spread of COVID-19, multiple divisions within Department of Law and Public Safety are extending by at least 30 days the deadlines for renewing or resubmitting certain licenses. ABC is extending by 30 days any Minor Employment Permits set to expire in March. DCA houses 51 professional licensure boards, which collectively oversee approximately 720,000 active licensed professionals. The licenses issued by those boards have staggered renewal dates. The licensure actions announced today by Attorney General Grewal pertain only to licenses issued by the professional boards that require renewals or resubmission in the coming weeks. The State Athletic Control Board (SACB) is extending for 30 days all Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), Boxing and Kickboxing licenses including: Pro Boxer; Pro MMA Contestant; Amateur MMA Contestant; Pro Kickboxer; Amateur Kickboxer and Amateur Muay Thai Kickboxer

Effective immediately, DCA is extending by 60 days licenses for Home Improvement Contractor, Home Elevator Contractor, Respiratory Care Practitioner and Product Warrantor that are due for renewal during the March renewal period. Similarly, the following CDS licenses are being extended by 60 days: Analytical Lab; Clinic Narcotic Treatment Center; Dog Handler/Trainer; Animal Shelter; Manufacturer; Wholesale Distributor, and Research Facility. DCA is extending by 30 days licenses for Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Professional Engineer & Land Surveyors, which are due for renewal during the April renewal period.

DCA

The Department of Community Affairs launched a screening tool to help people find out if they are eligible for NJ assistance programs.

<https://njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/>

Health

Since the establishment of the Hotline, the NJ Poison Control Center has received 8,623 calls. Yesterday alone, NJPIES received 669 calls.

Today, Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the United Ways of New Jersey announced today that NJ 211 has been activated to help handle COVID-19 related calls from New Jersey residents. All residents with questions or concerns about COVID-19 and resources available to them can call 2-1-1. NJ 211 is New Jersey's statewide, comprehensive, information and referral service operated by United Ways of New Jersey.

Residents call also text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive text information and stay informed. To receive live text assistance, residents can text their zip code to 898-211.

These enhancements to 211 will supplement, rather than replace, the existing COVID-19 hotline, operated by the New Jersey Poison Control Center. State residents with questions about COVID-19 illness can continue to call the previously shared numbers for the COVID-19 hotline, but they can also call 211 to get answers about their COVID-19 questions.

Additionally, the Department of Health has a COVID-19 website with resources including CDC updates, guidance for schools, colleges, businesses, long-term care facilities, health care professionals and public health professionals. The website is available at <https://nj.gov/health/coronavirus>.

Human Services

The Department of Human Service's Division of Family Development will implement the following policies, effective immediately:

- Continue to pay child care providers for an extended period of time encouraged for those required to close by the health department, school district, or county executive related to COVID-19;
- Ensure providers commit to clean at the highest level of disinfection cleaning during this period of time;
- Waive parents/caregivers' child care subsidy co-payments for parents who request it due to impacts from COVID-19;
- Provide child care providers who remain open during this critical time a differential of \$100 per child each month above the state reimbursed rate for children enrolled in the child care subsidy program;
- Compensate providers who remain open even if children are absent due to COVID-19;
- Give extended time to working parents to submit verification of works hours for the initial application process;
- Extend recertification timelines for at least three months in order for child care services to remain open;
- Allow parents or caregivers to continue their child care subsidy if their hours are reduced or if they are laid off due to COVID-19; and
- Make grants available for child care providers who participate in the child care subsidy program, including family child care providers, to clean and sanitize their facility or home; or to purchase additional supplies or services necessary to keeping centers and homes safe and sanitary.

Please find attached a press release from the department providing more detail on the actions taken.

Treasury

In order to protect public health, the Department of the Treasury on Wednesday announced the limited closure of a number of its offices that serve walk-in clientele while divisions work to review and revise existing protocols. The offices are expected to be closed through at least March 31, with an anticipated reopening of April 1. Taxpayers, individuals, and businesses will still be able to access these services online, over the phone, or through the mail during these limited closures. Please see the attached press release for more details.

OAG

On Monday the Attorney General issued guidance to law enforcement on Executive Order 104. Please see attached.

Senator Vin Gopal
Majority Conference Leader
11th Legislative District

