

# BULLETIN: FROM THE UC CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Sheriff's Office temporarily assigned a 9-1-1 telecommunications certified officer to the Berkeley Heights Police Department to support dispatch staffing shortage. It also assigned personnel to assist the Elizabeth Board of Education and the Elizabeth Police Department for security during school meal distribution in March. In addition, personnel prepared an operating plan and security for United Way food and goods distribution events.

## COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

The office has responded to Governor Murphy's Executive Order stipulating that the Primary Election will be held on July 7 primarily on a Vote-by-Mail basis, while continuously providing other services on a remote and limited in-person basis.

## COUNTY SURROGATE'S OFFICE

The office is working to probate 900 estates. This is a huge increase, and sadly, is largely due to deaths from the COVID-19 crisis.

## MORE COVID-19 UPDATES

### UC COVID-19 CALLS WITH MUNICIPALITIES

County officials host briefings with local governments within the county, to relay state and federal guidance on issues pertaining to the crisis from statewide closings to the road back.

### ZERO PERCENT COUNTY BUDGET INCREASE

Union County Freeholders adopted a county budget which will include **no tax increase** (from county tax). The fiscally sound 2020 budget offers enhanced public safety (during COVID-19), with no layoffs and maintains all essential services.

In addition, Union County also maintains the **highest attainable bond rating** from rating agencies, as a result of our long-range planning.

Due to the crisis and the need for social distancing, the county freeholders transitioned from in-person to remote meetings, all posted on-line.

### The Road Back: Moving Forward Deliberately

	Maximum restrictions	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	New normal
<b>Description</b>	Most staying at home. Activity largely limited to crucial activities.	Restrictions relaxed on low-risk activities if appropriately safeguarded.	Additional activities permitted that can be easily safeguarded.	Most activities allowed with significant safeguarding.	Economic and social activity back to normal with a new resilience.
<b>Example of phased-in activities *</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency health care</li> <li>Essential construction</li> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Essential retail:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grocery stores</li> <li>Pharmacies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and county parks</li> <li>Non-essential construction</li> <li>Curbside retail</li> <li>Drive-in activities</li> <li>Beaches</li> <li>Elective surgeries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded retail</li> <li>Outdoor dining</li> <li>Indoor dining at significantly reduced capacity</li> <li>Limited personal care</li> <li>Museums</li> <li>Libraries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded dining</li> <li>Critical in-office work</li> <li>Limited entertainment</li> <li>Expanded personal care</li> <li>Bars with limited capacity</li> </ul>	

\*Subject to change based on what we learn in New Jersey and globally



# Union County COVID-19 Update

Public Safety Committee of the Union County Freeholder Board

Summer 2020

## Union County COVID-19 Response

by Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella



The 550,000 residents of Union County have been part of an unprecedented, collaborative response to the COVID-19 virus. This historic undertaking has been made possible through the community spirit of every person who has helped to reduce the risk of contracting or spreading the virus, by following health and public safety guidelines. In support of this effort, the Freeholder Board has been unwavering in its commitment to maintain essential services throughout the crisis. County government also supports the efforts of our 21 municipalities, local hospitals, business community, and non-profit partners. With this update, we hope to ensure that every County resident has access to useful resources that can help our community continue to make progress, together.

## Food Distributed Through United Way and Community Foodbank of NJ



Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel Estrada, Freeholders Angela Garretson, Sergio Granados, Christopher Hudak, Bette Jane Kowalski, Kimberly Palmieri-MouDED, Andrea Staten, and Rebecca Williams have all participated in distributing food to residents and non-profits throughout the emergency. The food distributions have been held in cooperation with agencies such as the United Way and Community Food-Bank of New Jersey, and Amazon.com.



<p>United Way of Greater Union County www.uwguc.org (908) 353-7171</p>	<p>Community Foodbank of NJ www.cfbnj.org (908) 355-3663</p>
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## COME TO YOUR CENSUS 2020!

Union County is outpacing the state and national average for responding to the 2020 Census, even though the COVID-19 crisis has prevented census takers from conducting the traditional door-to-door count.

The Census count has a direct impact on funding for education, roads, and health care in Union County. Individuals and households who have not yet responded to the 2020 Census can do so by mail, phone, or online ([www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)).

**Union County Distributes facemasks**  
Towns and long term care facilities get them.  
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**Public Safety Update**  
Updates from the county's Public Safety offices.  
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**Voting Safely in Union County**  
Vote by mail ballots sent out, limited in-person voting.  
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**Additional Resources**  
More info from around Union County.  
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A service of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders



**Union County** We're Connected to You!



## FROM UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

by Public Safety Chair and Freeholder Angela Garretson

Union County Freeholder Board Vice Chairman Estrada, Freeholder Staten, Freeholder Palmieri-Moudey, and I serve on the standing Public Safety Committee, and have worked together in that capacity throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The response by the Department of Public Safety includes monitoring CDC guidelines, following the Governor's statewide shutdown procedures, and implementing an economic restart plan to put New Jersey on the road back to recovery from COVID-19. Our county stands ready to face the new normal with solutions in support of every member of the Union County community. #UNIONCOUNTYSTRONG.



(General COVID-19 Questions): 2-1-1 (24/7) • (Medical COVID-19 Questions): 1-800-962-1253 (24/7)  
• (Text Alerts): NJCOVID to 898-211 •

## Union County Distributes Masks to Municipalities and the Disabled

The Union County Freeholders joined directors and staff in distributing facemasks to residents. In total, 100,000 masks were distributed to elected officials in all 21 municipalities for disbursement to residents.

The facemasks were purchased by the County. Along with distribution to municipalities for their residents, masks and gloves were also distributed to adults with disabilities who are participants in the Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP). Distribution of the personal protective equipment to PASP participants was coordinated through the County's Office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs.



## Free COVID-19 Testing

Union County was the first County government to open a testing site in New Jersey. To date, more than 20,000 tests have been administered.

Union County residents can get free testing for COVID-19 at our testing site at Kean University. To be tested, residents must first register. The quickest way to book an appointment is through the county's website at [ucnj.org](http://ucnj.org). Residents can also call (908) 214-7107 or (908) 373-5105 to schedule an appointment.

No symptoms are needed to get a test.



## Public Safety Update

The COVID-19 crisis is a rapidly evolving situation. We encourage the public to stay up to date by learning more about the offices and responsibilities of the Department of Public Safety, including:

- ✓ **Office of Consumer Affairs:** issues violations for suspected price gouging related to the outbreak. To file a report call (908) 654-9840 or use the online form at [ucnj.org/public-safety/office-of-consumer-affairs](http://ucnj.org/public-safety/office-of-consumer-affairs).
- ✓ **Division of Emergency Services:** coordinates with local emergency management offices to provide essential County personnel, affiliated workers, and emergency supplies as needed throughout the 21 municipalities, one example being the distribution of almost 770,000 facemasks to residents, including those in long-term care facilities.
- ✓ **Division of Health:** coordinates testing and tracing efforts among public health agencies, including the COVID-19 test center at Kean University, the Medical Reserve Corps, and an additional mobile testing unit. The Medical Examiner has also contributed equipment and resources related to an increased workload during the outbreak.

## Recycling Update



Union County's free drop-off programs for paper shredding, household hazardous waste and scrap metal have resumed on a modified basis. For updates visit [ucnj.org/recycling](http://ucnj.org/recycling) or call the Recycling Hotline for a recorded message, (908) 654-9889.

## Voting and COVID-19 Precautions

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the July 7 Primary Election, by the Governor's Executive Order, registered Republicans and Democrats will automatically get a ballot to vote by mail, while all other voters will receive an application for a mail-in ballot. Only voters with disabilities can vote in-person by machine in this election. Others who show up at the polls will vote by provisional ballot (paper only). Ballots have been sent to voters around the county. **A limited number of polling places will be open in each municipality for those who need to vote in person.** For questions about vote by-Mail and polling place locations, contact:



### Union County Clerk Elections Division

Call (908) 527-4996, email [ucvote@ucnj.org](mailto:ucvote@ucnj.org), or visit online at [unioncountyvotes.com](http://unioncountyvotes.com).

### Union County Board of Elections

Call (908) 527-4123, email [ucboe@ucnj.org](mailto:ucboe@ucnj.org), or visit online at [ucnj.org/boe](http://ucnj.org/boe).

## COVID-19 News You Can Use

**EMPLOYMENT "VIRTUAL ONE-STOP"** – Union County American Job Center ([www.ucajc.org](http://www.ucajc.org)).

**FOOD ASSISTANCE** – Use the Community Foodbank of New Jersey "Find Food" search tool at [cfbnj.org](http://cfbnj.org) or county services, additional county services including SNAP (908) 838-4831.

**SENIOR SERVICES** – Call the Union County Division on Aging, toll free number, (888) 280-8226.

**VETERAN SERVICES** – Call the Union County Office of Veteran Services, (908) 527-4918.

**HOUSING/BILLS ASSISTANCE** – [www.needhelppayingbills.com/](http://www.needhelppayingbills.com/)

Stay Safe from COVID-19

