

COVID-19 HOLIDAY GUIDELINES SUMMARY

As the City of Newark enters the winter months and holiday season, Mayor Baraka is urging residents not to gather indoors for large family gatherings, and to take precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. It is imperative that we continue to follow current COVID-19 protocols, as well as adhere to State Executive Orders and active Municipal Executive Orders (MEO). **The following guidelines are part of MEO-20-0016 (Amended).**

INDOOR/OUTDOOR GATHERINGS:

- **No holiday parades or holiday parties** sanctioned by the City.
- **Outdoor gatherings/events are limited to no more than 25 people** (doesn't include restrictions to First Amendment rights i.e. political or religious, etc.)
- **If you plan to host a holiday gathering**, please follow these guidelines (in accordance with State guidelines):
 - The smaller the gathering is, the less likely it is that someone is infected and that loved ones are put at risk.
 - Practice social distancing if guests are from different households.
 - Ask guests to avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before gathering.
 - Remind invited guests to stay home if they have been exposed to the virus in the last 14 days, are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or recently travelled to an area or a state with high COVID-19 infection rates.
 - Require guests to wear masks when not eating, whether indoors or outdoors.
 - Host outdoor activities rather than indoor activities as much as possible.
- **Caution against Holiday Gatherings with Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities:** The State Department of Health and the City's Department of Health and Community Wellness strongly recommend against families taking residents out of long-term care facilities for holiday celebration events or gatherings. Residents of long-term care facilities are particularly susceptible to COVID-19. Bringing your loved ones home could put them at risk.
- **Additional State guidelines for holiday celebrations:**
 - **Tree lightings, menorah lightings, and other holiday gatherings** should be held outdoors whenever possible and abide by current gathering limits.
 - If possible, **limit indoor gatherings to individuals that reside within the immediate household for all seasonal holiday celebrations**, including (but not limited to) Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Saint Nicholas Day, Las Posadas, Winter Solstice, Pancha Ganapati, and New Year's Eve. Consider live streaming celebrations/events so that they may be viewed safely by others.
 - **Persons who have been told to quarantine or isolate should not attend any gathering, regardless of whether it is held indoors or outdoors.** They should complete the recommended period of time for the quarantine/isolation to protect others. This includes persons who are awaiting test results. Persons who are tested should quarantine away from others until they receive their test results. **Do not host or attend gatherings with anyone who has COVID-19 or anyone who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.**
 - **Consider alternatives to visiting Santa at indoor locations**, such as virtual visits or outdoor socially distanced visits/photos with Santa.
 - For **choirs, caroling, all singing groups** should be socially distanced from each other and their audience during each performance and must wear masks.
 - All vendors and organizers should observe social distancing and masking should be observed by staff, shoppers and sellers at winter holiday villages/flea markets/stores. Reservations should be considered to limit crowd size, and winter holiday villages and flea markets should be held outdoors when possible.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL:

- Travel outside of your home should be limited.
- As airports, bus stations, train stations, public transportation and rest stops are all places where travelers can be exposed to COVID-19, it is recommended that non-essential travel be limited this holiday season.
 - Instead of traveling, it is recommended that you stay home and connect with family and friends via video conferencing technology, such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, or Google Meetings.
 - **Students coming home for the holidays** are at risk of bringing COVID-19 infection with them, especially if there is an outbreak at their school. Even if they are asymptomatic (have no symptoms), students could unknowingly transmit the virus to vulnerable and at-risk individuals and contribute to widespread community transmission.
 - **Before Coming Home, Students...**
 - Should quarantine away from their families for 14 days before interacting with family members.
 - Who have family members at high risk of complications from COVID-19 infection (over 60 or with chronic medical conditions) should complete their quarantine somewhere other than in the same household with those high-risk family members.
 - Consider getting tested before leaving campus and 5-7 days after any potentially high risk activity (e.g., attendance at a party or gathering). Complete a 14-day quarantine even if the test(s) is (are) negative, as symptoms may occur at any time within that period.

- Who test positive, should have an isolation plan. The isolation period can generally end 10 days after symptom onset and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, and with improvement of other symptoms. If a person tests positive and has no symptoms, they should stay home for 10 days.
- Get a flu shot before you travel.
- **Anyone with symptoms or a positive test should avoid traveling home.**

RESTAURANTS/BUSINESSES/OFFICES:

- Must follow face mask and social distancing protocols, or the business may be subject to violations.
- All customers have to wear face masks at all times except for when eating and/or drinking. *This will be strictly enforced.*
- If two (2) or more customers, patrons, etc. test positive for the COVID-19 virus, then the business must close for a minimum of 48 hours for it to be cleaned. The first 24 hours after the mandatory close, the location/area must remain empty but be ventilated to air out; the next 24 hours the area must be cleaned.
- If any employee, worker, etc. tests positive for the virus and reports to work, then the business must close for a minimum of two (2) days. The first 24 hours after the mandatory closing, the business has to remain empty, the next 24 hours it has to be cleaned.
- All businesses must perform temperature checks of all individuals prior to entering the building. No one with a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees will be allowed inside.
- Reservations for more than 10 people are not allowed.
- No holiday (i.e. Christmas and New Year's) gatherings or events of 10 people or more at restaurants.
- All non-essential businesses must close at 8PM on weekdays and 9PM on Fridays and Saturdays.
- All Outside Dining ends at 9PM daily.
- Restaurants are allowed to remain open daily until 9PM. Curbside pick-up, take-out and delivery ends at 11PM daily.

SENIOR HOUSING:

- The City will conduct inspections of all long-term health care facilities and reserves the right to cease, limit or prohibit any visitation in the facility if there is an increase of COVID-19 positive cases, or a failure to follow COVID-19 protocols.
- Senior Housing residents are allowed one (1) non-essential visitor per unit per day.
- All building managers/security must perform temperature checks of everyone prior to entering the building. Entrance will be prohibited to anyone with a temperature in excess of 100.4 F.
- Managers/security/maintenance workers must wear appropriate PPE while working.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

- Attendance is restricted to 25% capacity.
- Anyone speaking or singing during religious services must wear masks (including pastors while preaching).
- No one with a temperature higher than 100.4 F will be allowed inside.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR ICE RINKS:

The following protocols are **required** as per the State effective Saturday, December 6, 2020 to January 2, 2021.

- All indoor ice rinks cannot allow any form of team competition.
- Competitions are allowed in outdoor ice rinks, but limited to a maximum of 25 participants. Players, coaches, and staff only.
- Outdoor Ice Rinks are defined by two open walls and/or no roof.
- Indoor Ice Rinks may allow open skate or one-on-one skating limited to no more than 10 people.
- Professional, Collegiate, and Collegiate Sponsored teams are exempt from the above protocols.
- Failure to comply with the above protocols may subject the facility to discipline up to and including the revocation of licenses.

CURFEW:

- MEO-20-0014, which sets forth a **curfew of 8PM for non-essential businesses, City-wide, remains in effect until December 17, 2020.** The curfew ends at 5AM daily.
- Due to the significant rise in COVID-19 positive cases, **the curfew imposed through MEO-20-0014, MEO-20-0015 and MEO-20-0015 (Amended) remains in effect until December 17, 2020.** The curfew is as follows:
 - For Zip Codes 07104, 07105 and 07107, there is a mandatory 9PM curfew. No one should be on the street after 9PM on weekdays, and 10PM on Fridays and Saturdays, unless traveling to or from work or if there is an emergency.
 - 07105 is the entire area, not including the airport or the highways.
 - 07107 is the area bounded by 3rd Avenue North to Berkley Avenue and North 3rd Street to 11th Street.
 - 07104 is the area bounded by 7th Avenue to 2nd Avenue and from Broadway to Clifton Avenue.
- While we recommend that individuals refrain from being outdoors after the curfew, the curfew does not apply to workers at essential businesses while traveling to or from work.