



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT


262 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
(908) 204-3070. Fax (908) 204-3075. www.bernardshealth.org

Contact: Lucy Forgione, Health Officer/Health Director
health@bernards.org

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Weekly Update #78 – May 27, 2021

COVID-19 Restrictions Being Lifted

Lots of updates have been happening in New Jersey and guidance is constantly changing. Here is a rundown of some of the newest guidance restrictions being lifted.

- **Indoor Mask Mandate** – Being lifted as of May 28th:
 - Businesses and entities overseeing indoor spaces may continue requiring individuals to wear a face mask.
 - Face masks will still be required in State offices and worksites that are closed to public such as warehousing and manufacturing facilities.
 - Individuals should continue wearing a face mask in healthcare settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, airplanes, buses, trains and other forms of public transportation as well as airports, train stations and bus terminals.
 - Individuals should continue wearing a face mask in childcare settings, youth summer camps, private and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools.
 - Unvaccinated individuals are  strongly encouraged to continue wearing face masks in any indoor public setting.
- **Social Distancing** – Being lifted as of May 28th.
 - Businesses may continue to require individuals to maintain six feet of social distancing.
 - Individuals in the above listed locations (healthcare settings, correctional facilities, etc) should also continue to maintain social distancing,
 - Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to continue social distancing.
- **Dance floors, bars and restaurants:**
 - The Governor is removing all prohibitions from dance floors and bars and restaurants and from ordering food and drinks while standing at bars and restaurants effective May 28th.
- **Indoor Gatherings** – All capacity restrictions lifted as of June 4th.
- **Group limits in childcare classes** – Lifted as of May 26th.

Upcoming COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

Please note clinics at this time are age 18+ as we have been allotted J&J vaccine ONLY:

June 2nd – Good Shepherd Church, BV – 6-8pm
J&J (single dose) [Sign up here](#) – view flyer [here](#)

HIPAA and COVID-19 Vaccines

Effective Friday, June 4th employers may allow employees who can verify they are vaccinated to forego masking and social distancing. Employers may also rescind requirements to accommodate remote working arrangements and to reduce on-site staffs to the minimal number necessary.

As the vaccine becomes more readily available and individuals begin to return to work, a very common question we've received is "Is my employer allowed to ask me about my vaccination status? Isn't that against HIPAA?"

HIPAA ([Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996](#)) is a federal law that protects sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge. This only pertains to the healthcare providers, health plans, health clearinghouses and business associates of these entities.

A vaccine card does qualify as protected health information however HIPAA does not apply to most businesses and HIPAA does not protect information that patient shares about themselves. Proof of vaccination has historically been required in other instances like school registration, travel to certain counties and for employment in certain fields.

To learn more about, visit [HHS.gov – HIPAA and COVID-19](https://www.hhs.gov), [HHS.gov – Employers and Health Information in the Workplace](#), [CDC FAQs about HIPAA Privacy](#) and [CDC – HIPAA Overview](#).

Updated 5/27/2021

The Bernards Township Health Department is the contractual health agency serving Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Chester Borough, Long Hill Township, Mendham Borough, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough. For update links and more information, visit: <http://www.bernardshealth.org>



BERNARDS TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

262 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
(908) 204-3070. Fax (908) 204-3075. www.bernardshealth.org

Contact: Lucy Forgione, Health Officer/Health Director
health@bernards.org

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019) Resources and Links

COVID-19 Case Graphs per Municipality – Case counts come directly from raw data imported from Commcare by the Bernards Township Health Department.

Somerset County

- [Bernards Township](#)
- [Bernardsville Borough](#)
- [Peapack and Gladstone Boroughs](#)

Morris County

- [Chester Borough](#)
- [Long Hill Township](#)
- [Mendham Borough](#)

COVID-19 Weekly Activity Reports

- Provides data on COVID-19 transmission by six regions in NJ.
- Updated every Thursday.
- Used to determine school exclusion and other re-openings.
- This week NJ is overall **MODERATE**. Central West (Somerset) is **Moderate** and Northwest (Morris) is **Moderate**.
- Click [here](#) to view this week's report ending May 22nd.
- Click [here](#) to view past week's reports.

NJ COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

- Pre-Register for the Vaccine through NJVSS (NJ Vaccine Scheduling System) – <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/>
- <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>
- https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)

New Jersey COVID-19 Resources

- <https://covid19.nj.gov/> - Visit this webpage to get information on all things COVID-19 in New Jersey.
- COVID-19 New Jersey Dashboard [here](#). Includes vaccination overview, hospital census, case and mortality summaries, school data, contact tracing data, long-term care information, veteran's memorial homes, state psychiatric hospitals and Cases by Municipality Data (Municipalities with populations over 20K)
- Somerset County NJ COVID-19 Status Dashboard available [here](#).
- Morris County NJ COVID-19 Status Dashboard available [here](#).
- Phone/Text Lines:
 - 2-1-1 for General COVID-19 questions (7am-11 pm)
 - 1-800-962-1253 for Medical Questions (24/7)
 - Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive alerts
 - Download COVID Alert NJ app [here](#)
- **NJ COVID-19 Vaccine Phone Lines:**
 - State of NJ Hotline – (855) 568-0545 – Schedule a vaccine appt. Staffed with live agents from 8am-8pm daily.
 - Somerset County Hotline – (908) 231-7155 – Get answers to your questions about COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations. M-F 8:30am-8:00pm, Sat 10:00am-4:00pm.
 - Morris County COVID-19 Hotline – (973) 829-8250 – Staffed 7 days a week during business hours.

Testing Updates – Click [here](#) for more information on free testing across New Jersey

- **NJ Testing Sites** – [click here](#) for the most up to date information including new locations and testing criteria.
 - **Morris County** – [Click here for Morris County Testing Locations.](#)
 - **Somerset County** – [Click here for Somerset County Testing Locations.](#)

Updated 5/27/2021

The Bernards Township Health Department is the contractual health agency serving Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, Chester Borough, Long Hill Township, Mendham Borough, and Peapack and Gladstone Borough. For update links and more information, visit: <http://www.bernardshealth.org>