



Trenton COVID-19 Info Sharing Meeting Notes March 27, 2020 1 pm

Concerns Raised Today

- COVID-19 testing for those who can't drive
 - The County is working on setting up testing sites. Within a few weeks it is anticipated that a site in Trenton will be available.
- Telemedicine or calling NJ-211 for those without access to phones and/or the internet
 - Many people experiencing homelessness or other hardships don't have the ability to do anything other than go to the ER if they feel unwell due to lack of access to phones (or adequate minutes) and internet.
 - HJA is working on making computer resources available, but they're not set up yet. See below for details about getting updates from HJA via email.
 - Could TDI help?
- Maternal and child health
 - Concerns about how ob/gyn guidance and practice is changing in light of COVID-19. There is a desire for stakeholders to discuss this proactively.
 - The next **Maternal Health Stakeholders** meeting is on **Thursday, April 2, from 12-130**. Reach out to Emily Baggett at ebaggett@trentonhealthteam.org for more information.
- Availability of mental health resources
 - Contact Michele Madiou for information at mmadiou@mercercounty.org. Information shared by Michele about how to cope with stress during infectious disease outbreaks and social distancing during infectious disease outbreaks is attached to the email sent with these notes.
 - Requirements for consent have been relaxed; verbal allowed? (Need details.)
 - [NJ Mental Health Cares](#), the state's behavioral health information and referral service, will now also offer help to people dealing with anxiety and worry related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. New Jerseyans can call **1-866-202-HELP (4357)** for free, confidential support. NJ Mental Health Cares will be answered from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week by live trained specialists.
 - [Mental Health Association in NJ](#) is offering several resources

Info Included in Presentation and Shared by Participants

- **Key Sites for Info**
 - [CDC COVID-19 Updates](#)
 - [NJDOH COVID-19 Updates](#)
 - [NJDOH Dashboard](#)
 - [City of Trenton](#)
 - [Housing and Community Development Network of NJ](#)
 - [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)
 - [Trenton Health Team COVID-19 Updates](#)
- **NJ211 Hotline**
 - The NJ Poison Control Center and 211 have partnered with the State to provide information to the Public on COVID-19:
Call: 2-1-1
Call (24/7): 1-800-962-1253 (call center for clinical questions)
Text: NJCOVID to 898-211



Text: your **zip code** to **898-211** for live text assistance

Web: <https://www.nj211.org/coronavirus-covid-19>

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- **Henry J. Austin Updates**

- Jen Yaeger from HJA will begin sending email updates about HJA operations **next week**. Anyone who would like to receive these emails should contact Jen at Jennifer.Yaeger@henryjaustin.org.

- **Mercer County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)**

- The Mercer COAD is the county-based group that collaborates and coordinates provision of services during times of disaster. If you are a member or would like to become a member, please complete the information form, which will serve to provide updated information for future contact. The form is attached to the email sent with these notes.
- A **COAD conference call** is scheduled for the afternoon of **Monday, March 30th**.
- To send updated information forms or for more information, please contact Michele Madiou at mmadiou@mercercounty.org or 609-989-6529.

- **Food Access**

- [List of food resources](#), which is being updated daily between 2 and 3 pm
- [Map of food resources](#), which is linked to the above list and updates automatically
- Article with details of [food store hours](#) and special hours for high-risk people
- Trenton Public Schools [Grab and Go food sites](#) (see the right side of the page for updated info about Grab and Go food)
- **Trenton Food Stakeholders**
 - Next meeting **April 14th, 12:30pm-2:00pm**
 - Discussion: Food insecurity and resources to benefit community
 - If you are not already part of this group and would like to participate, please contact Matthew Broad at mbroad@trentonhealthteam.org.
- Mercer Street Friends Info
 - **Send Hunger Packing Weekend Meal Bags**
MSF distributed 975 bags today (3/27). They are preparing 1,200 bags for next week. The plan had been to have 200 weekend meal bags (equipped for a family of four) at each of the six TPS designated sites, amounting to 800 bags in total for Trenton students and their families, but they are seeing and meeting greater need. MSF will deliver the bags to each site and have MSF staff distribute the bags on **Fridays from 11:00am to 12:30pm**, alongside Aramark. Weekend bags will be provided on a *first come first served* basis to all families seeking a bag. **MSF will not be checking names against a SHUP list.** Should demand grow in the weeks to come, MSF is prepared to supply more weekend bags and we are certainly open to adjustments to this plan.



- **Food Distribution**

MSF is continuing to distribute to its food network/pantries on the same schedule and is working with them to accommodate their alternative arrangements. The majority of the partner agencies are distributing at the entrance of their sites, in the parking lots, or only allowing 3-5 people in their site at a time. All pantries are distributing pre-bagged commodities; no client choice for those few pantries who offered it until further notice. Shelters and TASK have also implemented necessary precautions and preventative protocols for residents and patrons.

- **Request for Volunteers**

MSF is in need of volunteers Tuesdays-Thursdays, 9-12 and 1-4pm.

Their message to volunteers is:

During this National Crisis, Mercer Street Friends Food Bank will continue to operate and meet the needs of our community. Our goal is to make the strongest impact possible by partnering with schools, pantries, government, and other non-profit entities. Yes, we are in need of volunteers and are making every effort to ensure your safety during this time. We currently have no reported or suspected cases within our agency, but we have adopted a few precautionary processes to help guide our daily operations:

1. We will adopt a pre-screening form that should be returned to the agency prior to your arrival. Attached is the volunteer screening tool.
2. Deep cleaning of the Food Bank and a ramped-up daily cleaning is in process.
3. Upon arrival, you will be escorted to a wash station.
4. You will be provided with gloves (mandatory) and mask (if requested).
5. We are limiting the number of people so we can practice social distancing.
6. Alcohol sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
7. Follow all CDC protocols for disinfecting, cleaning and sanitizing.

In our efforts to maintain a cohesive and seamless process and maintain a safe space, please remember to contact Sherries Anderson. She can be reached at (609) 278-5546 or via email sanderson@mercerstreetfriends.org for all scheduling concerns and/or changes.

- **PACF COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Fund**

- For immediate and long-term needs resulting from the pandemic.
- Simple application process.
- Organizations can re-apply multiple times for short and more long-term needs as funds are available.
- For more information, visit: [PACF COVID-19 Relief Recovery Fund](#).

- **NowPow Updates**

- Note from NowPow on [update process](#).
- If you would like to update your service information, contact Jessica at jburnett@trentonhealthteam.org or email update@nowpow.com.



- Refreshers and training next week: **Tuesday 3/31 at 10am, Thursday 4/2 at 10am**. Reach out to Jessica for more info.
- **For Parents & Families** (shared by Maria Lockwood from Princeton)
 - America's Promise Alliance COVID-19 [resources](#) for educators, families, and others.
 - Virtual [resources for parents](#) compiled by Princeton University Library.
 - Learning at home: [Activities for students](#) from NYC Public Schools (available in multiple languages).
 - "[Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from COVID-19](#)" (available in multiple languages).
- **Childcare Updates from Advocates for Children of New Jersey**
 - Governor Murphy has ordered all [child care centers](#) that are not serving children of essential workers to close down by April 1, 2020.
 - Child care centers that would like to remain open to serve essential workers only must complete an application by Friday March 27th.
- **Updated Demographics Indicators**
 - New indicators that may help identify vulnerable populations have been added to the THT site:
 - Population 65+ by [Zip Code](#) and [Census Tract](#)
 - People 65+ Living Alone by [Zip Code](#) and [Census Tract](#)
 - People 65+ Living Below Poverty Level by [Zip Code](#) and [Census Tract](#)
 - Households Receiving SNAP with Children by [Zip Code](#) and [Census Tract](#)
 - These and more can be found on our [health indicators page](#).
- **Mother/Baby Contact & Breastfeeding**
 - CDC guidance on [obstetric care](#).
 - CDC guidance on [breastfeeding](#).
- **Mental Health**
 - [Resources from the WHO](#).
- **PSE&G**
 - [PSE&G is temporarily suspending shut-offs](#) of electric or gas service to residential customers for non-payment. However they are highly encouraging individuals to call PSE&G 1-800-357-2262 to enter into a deferred payment arrangement. This is important so that when the policy reverts back to normal, individuals are not left with a high accumulated bill.
 - [Other PSE&G updates](#).
- **Trenton Free Public Library**
 - Please forward any information to post at The Trenton Free Public Library to director@trentonlib.org.
- **NJ Family Care**
 - [NJ Family Care](#) is still operating and processing applications.