



Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Monday, March 16, 2020

Helpful Information For and From AEA members

- If you have emergency plans, customer notifications or other documents and communications that can be shared to help other members, please email them to Peggy and Karen.
- Northwest Bergen MUA has set up a drop box where customers can deposit payments.
- A3849 was on the agenda of today's Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee meeting. It would extend the response period for OPRA requests from seven days to 21 days. An Assembly voting session was scheduled for 2 p.m. so the bill may move through the Assembly today. A3847 (Tully/DeCroce) provides paid leave without utilizing accumulated leave for local government employees under certain circumstances. AEA is reviewing the text of this bill.
- One authority that is having a board meeting has planned to have half the commissioners phone in, and the remaining commissioners will be able to sit further apart. They plan to remove most chairs in the public seating area and set the half dozen left six to eight feet apart. (Note that this information came before the Governor's latest restrictions.)
- The question has been raised as to the potential for an extension of the June deadline for Long-term Control Plans.
- While many AEA drinking water members do not do shutoffs as a matter of policy or practice, those that do tell us they are suspending those shutoffs. Approaches vary: some will be reviewing the suspension every few weeks and for others the suspension period is open-ended.
- The following information has been provided through AEA's participation in the Water Sector Security Group: Water/wastewater utilities in need of PPE items should take their request to their respective County Office of Emergency Management.
- The contact person for utilities needing authorization certification for travel to and from work (not necessary in this current event) at the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management for Essential Personnel Travel Cards is Cindy Fullerton. She can be reached at 609-963-6900 x 6210.

- Legislature Requests Electronic Submissions of Testimony. The following announcement was posted today: Due to the current Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency, access to the interior of the State Capitol Complex is limited to members of government, government employees/contractors, credentialed members of the press, and invited participants with business in the Complex. Tours, field trips, and large gatherings are canceled. The public is encouraged to submit written testimony electronically for committees. This testimony will be included in the record. See [this link](#) for committee emails.

Major Statewide Restrictions Now in Effect

Good afternoon. At 2:00 p.m. today, Governor Phil Murphy will issue an executive order concerning the COVID-19 public health crisis, which will impose major restrictions. Here is his statement:

To slow the spread of #COVID19, I'm ordering:

- Closure of ALL pre-K, K-12 schools, colleges, and universities beginning 3/18
- Closure of ALL casinos, racetracks, theaters, gyms
- Closure of ALL non-essential retail, recreational, & entertainment businesses after 8:00 PM
- Banning gatherings of 50+
- All bars and restaurants are closed for eat-in services effective 8:00 PM tonight. After 8:00 PM, these establishments may open for takeout and delivery services ONLY, until further notice. These restrictions exist during daytime hours.
- All pre-K through grade 12 schools (public, private, and parochial) and all colleges and universities will close effective Wednesday, March 18th until it's deemed by health officials to be safe for in-person classes to resume.

We've worked closely to ensure that the overall educational and individual needs of students can be met during this closure, including appropriate home instruction and continued access to free and reduced meals.

Starting tonight, all non-essential and non-emergency travel in New Jersey is strongly discouraged between the hours of 8:00 PM AND 5:00 AM. This will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. We want everyone to be home - and not out.

Essential businesses which are necessary for the public's health, safety, and welfare - like supermarkets and grocery stores, pharmacies, medical offices, and gas stations - may remain open past 8:00 PM.

Effective 8:00 PM tonight, all movie theaters, gyms, casinos, and racetracks will close entirely until it is deemed safe for their reopening. Online gaming will continue.

Effective tonight, all other non-essential retail, recreational, and entertainment businesses MUST CLOSE after 8:00 PM. During daytime hours, these businesses may remain open if they limit their occupancy to no more than 50 persons and adhere to social distancing guidelines. All gatherings of over 50 individuals are CANCELED effective 8:00 PM tonight.

We do not take any of the steps we've announced today lightly. We know that these will impact residents and families, communities, and businesses. But our paramount concern is to #FlattenTheCurve - these steps will ensure we do not overload our health care system.

We'll make sure to provide you with the executive order as soon as it becomes available.

Guidance on holding public meetings

We have the following info to pass along:

Division of Local Government Services issued some guidance on this last week. [View their recommendations here.](#)

The League also has a webpage with links to some more helpful information. [View that page here.](#)

Key Guidance on Employment-Related Matters

Attorney John Napolitano has provided AEA members with a memo offering guidelines on employment related matters.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide answers and guidance to frequently asked questions raised by public sector municipal employers when dealing with issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

[View the entire memo and its important information here](#)

More Vital Information re: Coronavirus

The DEP Emergency Operations Center has forwarded these links. Please share them with all appropriate personnel:

CDC - Water Transmission & COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

OSHA - COVID-19 Control & Prevention - Wastewater

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste>

News Links

We gather industry news from throughout the state so you don't have to! Explore the following headlines and more at this news link

- The 'water literacy' lessons cities can learn from Cape Town
- EPA Inches Toward PFAS Drinking Water Regulation
- US considers more water recycling _ including from oilfields
- Lawsuit filed in DC seeks money for testing, treatment for controversial

chemicals contaminating water

- Gov Murphy budget includes \$80M for drinking water

More water, wastewater, solid waste and recycling news at
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