

Volunteering in a Time of Social Distancing: New Jersey Responds to COVID-19

During this national emergency, the New Jersey Governor's Office of Volunteerism and its partner organizations understand that those who are not suffering from the virus may want to help. However, all volunteer activities should adhere to critical health and safety protocols in order to

- Protect Volunteers
- Protect Residents
- Protect Clients
- Protect Service Agencies

General Guidance for Volunteer Organizations:

Realize that traditional services may shift.

Clean and sanitize gathering spaces or meal distribution sites regularly. Dispose of cleaning materials properly and contain any contaminated materials.

Do not compete in the market for scarce supplies that healthcare organizations and providers need every day to perform their duties.

If congregating is necessary for your task, consult public health partners and exercise extra measures.

Keep 6-10 foot social distance rules in place during tasks if possible.

Hang posters in facilities with best practices / social distancing / hand washing etc.

Provide sufficient and accessible infection control supplies (e.g. hand-hygiene products, tissues).

Provide disinfecting wipes and receptacles for their disposal in all locations. -
When in doubt visit [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) for recommendations.

For distribution/delivery:

- o For people receiving meals from a distribution point, if a line forms there needs to be chalk or tape on the ground that reminds people to keep at least a 6ft distance.

- For people who are giving meals, they also need to find a way to maintain at least 6ft if possible, use gloves, and wash hands with soap and water frequently.
- With deliveries, setting meals or supplies on the doorstep and waving and holding conversation from that safe distance to protect the seniors and homebound vulnerable folks is key.

Make sure all volunteers understand any risks associated with the task you would like them to do and understand if they are not comfortable with that level of risk.

Screen all volunteers and clients as able and before using them. ○ It is recommended to do temperature checks as volunteers come in for shift, especially if handling food.

- Consider having an isolation space ready in case anyone shows up with symptoms.

Realize that many volunteers are over age 65 and at a higher risk for contracting the virus.

Make sure you have the proper PPE available and make sure you train volunteers on its proper use before allowing them to do any tasks that require PPE.

For background and the most up-to-date information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website: [HERE](#)

[State of NJ Covid-19](#)

- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))
- YouTube ([here](#))

[New Jersey Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters \(NJVOAD\)](#)

- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))
- HelpNJNow ([here](#))

[NJ 211](#)

- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))
- E-mail covid19@nj211.org

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:](#)

- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:](#)

- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))

What you should know:

- [Workplace, School, and Home Guidance](#)
- [People at Risk for Serious Illness from COVID-19](#)
- [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [Symptoms](#)
- [Steps to Prevent Illness](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Facts about COVID-19](#)
- [Information for People at Higher Risk and Special Populations](#)

Information for Community Events and Gatherings:

- [Interim Guidance for Mass Gatherings and Large Community Events](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Community- and Faith-Based Organizations](#)
- EPA: [Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19PDF](#)

Specific info for NON-PROFITS:

- <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/trends-policy-issues/thenonprofitcommunity-confronts-the-coronavirus>

The NJ Governor's Office of Volunteerism recognizes and thanks NJ's 1.6 million volunteers for their service to our state every day. For more information, you can contact the office at 609-633-9627.

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- Website: <http://volunteerism.nj.gov>
- Facebook ([here](#))
- Instagram ([here](#))



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