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We're struggling to supply cops with protective gear, N.J. attorney general says

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Like other first responders, cops are burning through personal protective equipment needed to ward off the coronavirus, state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said Thursday.

"We're struggling, we are absolutely struggling with PPE across this state," Grewal told NJ Advance Media.

The gear should be saved for serious calls like violent crime, he said, but cops had to use some to break up parties defying the governor's stay-at-home order.

"The PPE supply should not be wasted on dispersing gatherings when we should all know better," Grewal said. Officers have broken up more than a dozen illegal events so far.

Several cops have tested positive for COVID-19, from larger agencies like Newark, Jersey City and NJ Transit, to smaller towns like Fanwood and Hazlet. The State Police previously said four troopers and two recruits had tested positive.

Two officers that were in "serious condition" were now "stable," acting Superintendent of the State Police Patrick Callahan said Thursday.

The health department recently began telling cops which residences have coronavirus patients, so that police can better prepare before responding to a call. Patient names are not being shared, however, and the information can not be used to refuse service, officials said.

Some departments are also limiting face-to-face contact, and others are purposely not enforcing some low level offenses. Grewal has also recommended cops delay filing some criminal charges.