

# The Star-Ledger

## **383 cops in N.J. have coronavirus and more than 3,000 are quarantined, State Police leader says**

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NJ Advance Media for NJ.com and The Star-Ledger

Published March 31, 2020

There are 383 New Jersey cops, including state troopers, local cops and sheriff's officers, who have tested positive for the coronavirus, and 3,081 are in quarantine, officials said at the governor's daily briefing Tuesday in Trenton.

An additional 618 are "out of work for another reason," according to Col. Patrick Callahan, acting Superintendent of the State Police.

The number of positive cases was a sharp increase from Sunday, when State Police tallied 163 officers testing positive. The positive cases affect a "small percentage of troopers," Callahan said, and experts have told NJ Advance Media that the state is not facing an imminent crisis due to a shortage of officers.

State officials continue to plead with residents to obey the governor's stay-at-home order, noting that illegal gatherings threaten not only participants, but the officers called upon to break them up.

"We cannot do this profession from six feet away sometimes," Callahan said, referring to the space needed to practice "social distancing."

Last night, Newark cops shut down 15 businesses and gave tickets to 161 people for violating lockdown rules. Previously, departments had mainly just ticketed the host when breaking up more than a dozen gatherings across ten counties.

It's possible that "if and when those large gatherings happen," Callahan said, "everybody there is going to be charged."

Three lawmakers proposed legislation on Tuesday to fine violators.

Anyone hosting a gathering that violates the governor's orders should have to pay up to \$15,000, state Sen. Jim Holzapfel, R-Ocean, along with two Assembly colleagues said in a statement.

The state attorney general said last week that officers didn't have enough personal protective equipment, and Callahan added Tuesday that health care workers needed to be the first priority when doling out gear.

The State Troopers Fraternal Association announced Tuesday that it was partnering with a health care union to collect PPE, including gloves and masks. Donations can be

dropped off at the association's headquarters starting Wednesday, according to a press release.