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N.J. state offices to be closed on Inauguration Day as safety precaution, Murphy says

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Gov. Phil Murphy is closing state offices in Trenton Wednesday, the day President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in, amid fears of more violence.

State employees will work remotely Jan. 20, Murphy said Friday during his coronavirus press conference in Trenton.

“We felt that was right thing to do given the level of tension right now in the county,” he said.

He reiterated that there is “no specific threat” facing New Jersey, but advised residents to “lay low” in the coming days.

Spokeswoman Alexandra Altman said Tuesday that the closure did not affect offices outside the capital.

“Trenton based employees have been asked to work remotely” out of “an abundance of caution,” Altman wrote in an email. “This doesn’t apply to other areas of the State at this time.”

Five people died this month when a mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol.

The state’s top Homeland Security official has asked residents to report any suspicious activity amid reports of “armed” marches nationwide, although local Second Amendment groups have advised gun owners to stay away.

The State Police said no organization has been given a permit to rally at the Statehouse in the coming days, and almost nobody showed up to protest over the weekend.

NJ Advance Media staff writer Matt Arco contributed to this report.