# The Star-Ledger

Coronavirus update: From closed schools to new cases, here's what you need to know to start your week

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The coronavirus headlines keep coming.

Schools are about to shutter. Surgeries have been postponed. An employee at an immigration detention center is in quarantine.

There's a lot to digest -- just here in New Jersey. Here's what you need to know Monday.

## The raw numbers

New Jersey now has at least 98 cases of the coronavirus, after more than 30 new positive tests were announced Sunday.

That includes the first reported one at Rutgers.

Two people have died, including a religious education teacher from Freehold.

Some counties have reported additional cases, including Hunterdon.

#### The schools

They are all about to close.

Gov. Phil Murphy said Sunday that an "extended statewide school shutdown is imminent" for both public and private institutions. He's expected to announce specifics Monday afternoon.

Although hundreds of districts already have sent students home, Lakewood was one of the holdouts. An official said 40% of students didn't have access to computers or other tools to learn at home, and the district planned to open Monday.

Meanwhile, all staff and students at the Anna C. Scott School in Leonia were told to immediately self-quarantine after an employee tested positive for the virus.

# Grocery stores and other businesses

Walmart and other companies are changing their hours to restock and clean. Wegman's said it will limit how much toilet paper and hand sanitizers customers can buy, after residents emptied shelves around the state.

Apple, Nike and others are just shutting down stores for at least part of March.

In Teaneck, officials announced widespread business closures and restrictions because of the high number of local cases.

And restaurants are bracing for the worst across New Jersey. Hoboken is leading the way.

#### Health care

The governor asked the Trump Administration to give residents more time to sign up for health insurance.

In Bergen County, Hackensack Meridian Health is postponing all elective surgeries for two weeks.

A drive-thru testing clinic did open in Secaucus Friday, but it's only available to Riverside Medical Group patients.

#### **Detention centers**

A staff member at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's detention center in Elizabeth is quarantined and being tested for the coronavirus, officials said Sunday.

As of March 13, there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the Elizabeth Detention Center, according to ICE.

## **Other New Jersey news**

Newark is halting rent evictions, the city's mayor announced Sunday, while also giving residents 60 more days to pay taxes.

Most in-person Superior Court business scheduled for Monday or Tuesday is postponed, and motor vehicle offices are closing for two weeks.

Starting Wednesday, state workers will be allowed to work from home if they wish, the governor recently said.

Murphy also said "more draconian measures" may be on the way to limit the virus' spread.

# New York and beyond

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said a city lockdown shouldn't be ruled out. "Every option is on the table in a crisis," he said Sunday.

Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended the cancellation of all events with 50 or more people for the next two months.

Reactions to the pandemic have partially cut along party lines. Republicans are less likely to avoid crowds and stay home, according to a recent poll, while Democrats are more likely to believe the worst is yet to come.