

JEFFERY PIERSON  
Freeholder

KEVIN L. THOMAS, M.A.  
Health Officer  
Public Health Coordinator

ALOYSIUS ONWUKA, M.D.  
Medical Director

# CAPE MAY COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

4 Moore Road  
Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210-1601  
(609)465-1200 after hours (609) 465-1190  
Fax: (609) 463-0511



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 3, 2020**

**The best protection against COVID-19 is staying apart from each other. However, non-medical masks can be a supplement**

Cape May Court House- Cape May County continues to see an increase in COVID-19 cases. New Jersey currently has 29,895 and 646 deaths. Today, in Cape May County a 56-year-old female, 56-year-old male, 59-year-old female, and 26-year-old male tested positive for Covid-19.

<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>	<u>ACTIVE CASES</u>	<u>RECOVERED</u>
AVALON	5	1
CAPE MAY CITY	1	2
CAPE MAY POINT	0	
DENNIS TOWNSHIP	3	
LOWER TOWNSHIP	11	3
MIDDLE TOWNSHIP	5	3
NORTH WILDWOOD	2	1
OCEAN CITY	1	1
SEA ISLE CITY	0	1
STONE HARBOR	0	
UPPER TOWNSHIP	4	1
WEST CAPE MAY	0	
WEST WILDWOOD	0	
WILDWOOD	4	
WILDWOOD CREST	4	
WOODBINE	0	
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE</b>	<b>40</b>	
<b>TOTAL RECOVERED</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>TOTAL CASES IN CAPE MAY COUNTY</b>	<b>53</b>	

Staying home and avoiding all non-essential contact with others continues to be the most important thing all of us can do to stay healthy and keep others healthy. If you must go out, stay at least six feet apart from others at all times.

Before deciding whether to wear a mask, Cape May County Department of Health recommends:

- **Medical masks should be reserved for healthcare providers** who are on the front lines working to protect us all. We have had shortages of those masks – and it's critically important that our healthcare workers have the equipment they need to do their jobs.
- **Non-medical mask use (e.g., homemade fabric masks) does not replace the need to follow guidance to stay home and limit our contact with others.** It does not replace frequent handwashing, avoiding touching the face, and staying away from people who are ill. These are the most important steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 illness.

“Medical masks are needed for healthcare workers who are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. We need our healthcare workers to be able to continue providing their services during this pandemic,” said Freeholder Jeffery Pierson.

Wearing a fabric mask can help prevent the spread of infection to others when the mask is worn by someone who already is infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, even if they don't have symptoms. The mask will block infectious droplets from spreading when someone with the infection coughs, sneezes and, to a lesser degree, speaks.

It is not known how much protection homemade cloth masks provide to the person wearing the mask, and this may depend on the quality of the mask and how well it fits. For this reason, homemade and fabric masks should not be considered reliable protection but may provide some benefit.

Stay up to date on the current situation as it evolves. Some reliable sources are New Jersey Poison Information and Education System hotline at 211 or 1-800-962-1253, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), the World Health Organization at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int), the New Jersey Department of Health at [COVID19.nj.gov](http://COVID19.nj.gov). **For additional information** visit Cape May County Department of Health at [www.cmchealth.net](http://www.cmchealth.net), also like us on Facebook.

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For Additional Information:

**Contact:** Natalie Sandler

**Email:** [natalie.sandler@co.cape-may.nj.us](mailto:natalie.sandler@co.cape-may.nj.us)

**Phone:** 609-465-1201