

BERGEN NEW JERSEY County



County of Bergen

Executive Order No. 2020-01F

Continuing Declared County State of Emergency

Suspension and Modification of County Ordinances, Rules or Regulations

Relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic –

Golf Courses/Parks Reopening

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the County Executive Form of Optional Charter Law, N.J.S.A. 40:41A-36 and 37, et seq., and Article 3, Section 3.4 of the Administrative Code of the County of Bergen, I issue the following Executive Order:

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 within New Jersey constitutes an imminent public health hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety and welfare of the residents of all municipalities and counties within the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Jersey has declared a State of Emergency within the New Jersey and the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in response to the health emergency posed by COVID-19, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-01 on March 10, 2020, declaring a State of Emergency in Bergen County due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order No. 107 requiring New Jersey residents to remain home or at their place of residence subject to limited exceptions, cancelling social gatherings, and limiting all restaurants and other dining establishments to offering only food delivery and/or take-out services; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 107 instituted clear parameters on essential retail businesses that are permitted to operate and required that all businesses or non-profits utilize telework or work-from-home arrangements wherever practicable; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 107, the Governor ordered that all recreational and entertainment businesses are closed to the public, all public, private, and parochial preschool program premises, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, are closed to the public, and all institutions of higher education shall continue to cease in-person education; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy also issued Executive Order No. 108, which prohibited counties or municipalities from imposing any COVID-19 related restrictions that in any way will or might conflict with any of the provisions of Executive Order No. 107; and

WHEREAS, the Governor reserved in Executive Order No. 108 to municipalities or counties the ability to impose additional restrictions in municipal or county parks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-01D, which closed certain county parks and imposed certain restrictions as to county parks that remained open in an effort to ensure compliance with the guidelines of health professionals and the CDC as to social distancing in order to slow the deadly spread of the COVID-19 throughout Bergen County and protect the health, safety, welfare and lives of the residents of Bergen County, while preserving the ability of individuals to spend time outdoors; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 2020-01E, which closed county parks due to reports from local authorities about complications, including but not limited to traffic congestion, parking issues and non-compliance with social distancing guidelines, related to park visitation, thereby placing an unnecessary burden on local law enforcement, the Bergen County Sheriff and other critical resources during a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, due to increased public interaction and gatherings at county and State parks throughout the State, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 118 on April 7, 2020, which closed State Parks and Forests, as well as county parks, to the public in order to further social distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 133 superseded Executive Order No. 108 to the extent that Executive Order No. 108 had allowed counties to impose additional restrictions at county parks in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, after the issuance of Executive Order No. 118, the CDC issued guidance for visiting parks and recreational facilities, recognizing that parks and open spaces provide people a vital way to keep the mind and body healthy; and

WHEREAS, the CDC guidance regarding the safe access of parks advises individuals to stay six feet away from other visitors, avoid use of playgrounds, decline participation in organized sports and recreational activities, and visit parks close to home to limit travel distances; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 118 balanced the need to respond to the increasing new cases and hospitalizations with the need to provide people with outdoor recreation opportunities for the physical and mental well-being, and the progress in the State’s fight against COVID-19 shifts the balance to allow for such additional outdoor recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 133, which among other provisions, allows the reopening with set restrictions, of all state parks and forests, no longer classifies golf courses as non-essential recreational businesses and permits the reopening of county parks subject to other stated restrictions within Executive Order 133; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 133, provides that County parks shall open to the public with the exception of those parks closed to the public by county order prior to the effective date of Executive Order No. 118, and that such parks may be reopened by order of the county of jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Bergen County continues to be the epicenter of COVID-19 cases in the State of New Jersey, which necessitates the implementation of any and all measures geared towards compliance with the guidelines of health professionals and the CDC as to social distancing in order to slow the deadly spread of the COVID-19 throughout Bergen County, and protect the health, safety, welfare and lives of the residents of Bergen County. and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Executive Order 133, the County has determined to reopen County parks and golf courses and that additional restrictions regarding county parks are necessary to ensure compliance with the guidelines of health professionals and the CDC as to social distancing in order to slow the deadly spread of the COVID-19 throughout Bergen County, and protect the health, safety, welfare and lives of the residents of Bergen County, while allowing the ability of individuals to spend time outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the County will continue to monitor and assess the pandemic and take such future action in conjunction with the State as may be appropriate to protect the health, safety, welfare and lives of the residents of Bergen County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES J. TEDESCO, III, as the County Executive for the County of Bergen, do hereby order and direct that:

- 1. The above recitals are repeated as if set forth herein.**
- 2. This Order shall be read in conjunction with and not contrary to the terms of any Executive Order issued by the Governor of the State of New Jersey.**
- 3. I hereby rescind Executive Order 2020-01E in its entirety to the degree any of its terms conflict with any of the provisions set forth herein.**
- 4. In order to maintain compliance with the guidelines set by health professionals and the CDC as to social distancing and to prevent parks, golf courses or other areas from**

becoming viral hotspots as the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to spread, I hereby order the following as to the conditional and limited reopening of County parks and golf courses to the public.

5. **Darlington County Park, 600 Darlington Avenue, Mahwah, shall remain closed due to construction activities.**
6. **The Bergen County Zoo at Van Saun Park, 216 Forest Avenue, Paramus, shall remain closed.**
7. **The James A. McFaul Environmental Center, 150 Crescent Avenue, Wyckoff shall remain closed.**
8. **The following amenities shall remain closed to the public at all County Parks:**
 - a. **Picnic areas;**
 - b. **Playgrounds, inclusive of the following attractions;**
 - i. **Carousel at Van Saun County Park, 216 Forest Avenue, Paramus**
 - ii. **Train at Van Saun County Park, 216 Forest Avenue, Paramus**
 - c. **Exercise stations and equipment;**
 - d. **Chartered watercraft services and rentals;**
 - e. **Swimming;**
 - f. **Pavilions;**
 - g. **Restrooms;**
 - h. **Water fountains;**
 - i. **Other buildings or facilities, including, but not limited to, visitor centers, interpretive centers, and interior historical sites;**
 - j. **Recreational Facilities for organized play including but not limited to; Fields for Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Football, Lacrosse, Cricket, Courts for Tennis, Pickleball, Basketball, Bocce, Disc Golf, Courses for Crew, Cross Country, Track, Etc. (except for Golf as permitted in Article 11 herein); and**
 - k. **Concessions.**
9. **The following recommendations and policies shall apply to all County Parks:**

- a. **Employees and visitors shall wear cloth or other CDC required face coverings while in a County Park in all settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, except where doing so would inhibit that individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age;**
 - b. **Available parking must be limited at all County Parks to 50% of the maximum capacity at one time, and visitors shall be prohibited from parking in undesignated areas, including in roadways and other undesignated areas;**
 - c. **No picnicking shall be allowed, including on picnic blankets in signed picnic areas, and no picnic blankets, chairs, coolers, and other such personal property shall be carried into any County Parks;**
 - d. **Visitors must practice social distancing and stay six feet apart whenever practicable, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;**
 - e. **No organized or contact activities or sports shall be allowed; and**
 - f. **No gatherings of individuals are allowed.**
- 10. All recreational campgrounds and transient camp sites at campgrounds shall remain closed to the public. Residential campgrounds, which includes mobile home parks, condo sites, and existing/renewing 2020 yearly seasonal contract sites, may remain open.**
- 11. Golf courses shall be allowed to reopen to the public and to members associated with private golf clubs, but such businesses must adopt policies that include, at minimum, the requirements set forth in Executive Order 133, with the additional or alternative requirements as noted for County golf courses:**
- a. **All reservations, cancellations and pre-payments be made via electronic or telephone reservation systems to limit physical interactions. Such policies shall, wherever possible, consider populations that do not have access to internet service or credit cards;**
 - i. **County courses, reservations and cancellations must be made in advance on-line or by telephone. Green fees must be paid by credit card via telephone at time of check-in on the day of play;**
 - b. **Stagger tee times so that they are 16 minutes apart to limit the amount of people on the golf course;**
 - i. **County courses, tee times shall be 20 minutes apart to limit the amount of people on the golf course.**

- c. Limit use of golf carts to single occupant only, excluding an individual's immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;**
 - i. County courses, there will be no use of motorized golf carts and all golfers are required to walk and may use push-carts;**
- d. Require frequent sanitization of high-touch areas including, at minimum, the following cleaning protocols:**
 - i. Clean and disinfect high-touch areas routinely, and after each use, in accordance with CDC guidelines, particularly in spaces that are accessible to staff, players, or other individuals, including, but not limited to, restroom facilities, counter tops, door knobs, other common surfaces, range buckets, golf carts, push carts, and other frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment, and ensure cleaning procedures following a known or potential exposure at the golf course in compliance with CDC recommendations; and**
 - ii. Ensure that the golf course has a sufficient number of workers to perform the above protocols effectively and in a manner that ensures the safety of players and staff.**
- e. Restrict players' ability to touch common surfaces when retrieving golf balls by installing pins, placing cups upside down or partly above ground, or utilizing a shallow cup;**
- f. Close all golf center buildings, pro shops, and other buildings and amenities to the public;**
- g. Remove bunker rakes and other on-course furniture like benches, water coolers, and ball washers;**
- h. Ensure that the flagstick remains in the golf hole at all times, and instruct players to avoid touching the flagstick or hole;**
- i. Discontinue club and equipment rentals;**
- j. Prohibit the use of caddies;**
- k. Limit tee times to two players, except for immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;**
 - i. County courses shall limit tee times to two players only;**

