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April 9, 2021

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Municipal Clerks: Please forward to your Mayor, Governing Body, and Department Heads.

To assist in providing guidance and information we have created a [COVID-19 resource page](#). We will continue to update the page as we get pertinent information and include announcements in our Daily Updates.

I. State Issues

a. COVID-19 Weekly Update

The Governor this week announced that effective April 19 all New Jersey residents over the age of 16 will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and noted that with the more than 750 vaccination sites in New Jersey 98.7% of residents live within five miles of where they can receive a vaccine.

The Governor also announced an [administrative order](#) adjusting gathering limits for non-professionals and non-collegiate indoor sports activities as well as permitting retail businesses to utilize self-service food, such as buffets and salad bars.

New travel and quarantine advisories have been issued and it was noted that iPhone users will now be able to benefit from the exposure notification technology, even if they choose not to download the COVID NJ Alert app by simply turning on the setting in their iPhone. Apple will be sending out push notifications to users over the next few days.

COVID Data for April 9, 2021:

- 3,523 new positive cases for a total of 831,260 confirmed cases
- 43 new confirmed deaths for a total of 22,253 confirmed deaths
- The rate of transmission is at 1.01
- 1,070 cases linked to 240 school outbreaks since August 2020
- 5,141,870 vaccine doses have been administered, including 3,275,611 first doses and 2,030,971 second doses. 45% have been Moderna, 51% Pfizer, and 3% J&J.

Vaccine Information

As of April 19 all New Jersey residents over the age 16 will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

As a reminder, the Governor announced a new COVID-19 vaccine appointment finder. [The beta version is available to the public.](#)

The State hotline 855-568-0545 continues to assist residents, with live agents from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., in getting information on how to register, as well as how to schedule vaccine appointments as people become eligible.

Executive Orders

Governor did not issue any COVID-19 related Executive Orders this week.

Travel and Quarantine Guidelines

New [travel and quarantine guidelines](#) were announced this week. Unvaccinated travelers and residents returning from any US State or territory, excluding New York, Connecticut and Delaware, should self-quarantine at their home, hotel, or other temporary lodging following [CDC recommendations](#). Those fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 in past three months do not need to quarantine or get tested if it has been 2 weeks since your final dose of Pfizer or Moderna or 1st dose of J&J vaccine, or if you clinically recovered from COVID-19 in the past three months. In addition the CDC has issued separate guidance for [domestic travel](#) and [international travel](#).

Unemployment Information

Department of [Labor announced](#) that they have received 19,874 applications for the week ending April 3, which is an increase from the previous week.

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

b. COVID-19 Survey of Municipal Recreational Programs

As municipalities continue to navigate COVID-19, we are conducting a survey on municipal summer recreational programs and school operations during the pandemic. Please take a few minutes to complete this [brief survey](#).

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

c. Cannabis Regulatory Commission Meeting

The Cannabis Regulatory Commission will be holding their first public meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. The [agenda](#) for the meeting includes organizational items and a report from the Executive Director. A live streaming link will be posted on the agenda page prior to the meeting.

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

d. Appellate Panel Sides with Municipality in Dispute Over Attorney's Fees in Record Disclosure Case

This week the New Jersey Appellate Division issued a published opinion in [Gannett Satellite Information Network LLC, d/b/a Asbury Park Press v. Township of Neptune](#), a case which the League joined as amicus. This case involved a request made under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the common law for the disclosure police internal affairs files. The Appellate Panel affirmed the trial court's ruling regarding disclosure under both OPRA and the common law, but reversed the award for attorney's fees, finding that while attorney's fees may be awarded under the common law, such an award was not appropriate in the matter at hand. For more on the case please see the League's recent [blog post](#).

The League would like to thank Carl Woodward, Esq. of Carella, Byrne, Cecchi, Olstein, Brody & Agnello, PC, who represented the League along with the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys, for their tremendous work on this matter.

Contact: Frank Marshall, Esq., Associate General Counsel, fmarshall@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x137.

e. Budget Hearings

Earlier this week, the Senate Budget Committee took testimony on the proposed FY 2022 budget from both the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) and the Elizabeth Maher Muoio, the State Treasury. During their testimony OLS are projecting budget revenue projections for FY21 and FY22 will be \$553.2 million more than what Administration initially proposed in February. OLS noted that the difference is likely more to do with when the forecasts are made.

During the hearing, several senators raised concern about the borrowing that the Murphy Administration has made due to COVID. The senators are concerned that this could possibly lead to large tax hikes in the near future for New Jersey residents. There was also discussion regarding the Cares Act funds, and if the federal government will allow for allocations of those funds to reduce property taxes. Budget committee hearings are continuing next week with the Department of Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Law and Public Safety.

Contact: Andrew LaFevre, Legislative Analyst, alafevre@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

f. DLGS Announces FY2021 Local Recreation Improvement Grant

The Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) has [announced the Local Recreation Improvement Grant \(LRIG\)](#). The LRIG is a competitive grant that supports improvement and repair of public recreations facilities including local parks, municipal recreations centers, and local stadiums.

LRIG funds will be allocated to each grant recipient to help the recipient cover costs associated with the update of community centers, playgrounds, pools, fields, walking or bicycle trails, rail trails, and multi-sport courts.

The current appropriation is \$2.5 million for the FY2021 budget for the grant. There is a recommended maximum award of \$500,000 for a single grant but DLGS may award more than the cap may be authorized if warranted and depending upon program demand. All applications must be into the DLGS using the NJDCA SAGE Portal, by May 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to be considered for eligibility.

Applicants may contact Laurie Ann Doyle at 609-292-4132 to discuss program and project needs up to submission of the application. Email questions to LRIG@dca.nj.gov.

Contact: Andrew LaFevre, Legislative Analyst, alafevre@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x116.

g. Deadline for Action on Municipal Cannabis Regulation

The League would just like to remind our members that the deadline for action on municipal cannabis regulation is fast approaching. As you may recall, failure of a municipality to enact an ordinance prohibiting the operation of one or more classes of cannabis establishments, or cannabis distributors, or cannabis delivery services, before August 21, 2021, results in the cannabis cultivators, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and delivery services becoming permitted uses within all industrial zones of the municipality; and the retail sale a conditional use in all commercial or retail zones.

For more information please be sure to visit the [cannabis information page](#) on the League's website where we continue to provide additional resources and information for our members including a recently added FQA, which provides answers to some of the more frequently asked questions.

Contact:

- Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.
- Frank Marshall, Esq., Associate General Counsel, fmarshall@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x137.

II. Federal Issues

a. Governor Murphy Among Seven Governors to Urge President Biden to Repeal State and Local Taxes (SALT) Cap Deduction

Last week, along with the Governors of New York, Connecticut, Illinois, California, Oregon, and Hawaii, Governor Phil Murphy sent a [letter to President Joe Biden](#) urging the repeal of the State and Local Taxes (SALT) deductibility cap. Together, these states represent roughly a quarter of the United States population.

For more information and for a sample resolution in support of removing the SALT deduction cap, please read the League's [recent blog post](#).

Contact: Paul Penna, Legislative Analyst, ppenna@njlm.org, 609 695-3481, x110.

b. American Rescue Plan Update

The U.S. Treasury Department has 60 days to promulgate rules for the program and send federal aid directly to entitlement cities and to the state to be sent, unencumbered, to the municipalities within 30 days.

The League will share new information as it becomes available. Please monitor federal activity at the [League's Federal website page](#).

Contact: Paul Penna, Legislative Analyst, ppenna@njlm.org, 609 695-3481, x110.

c. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Announces Public Listening Activities on the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced [listening sessions and roundtables](#) to obtain input on the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The comment period ends on June 17, 2021.

For more information about how to participate and comment, please read the League's [recent blog post](#).

Contact: Paul Penna, Legislative Analyst, ppenna@njlm.org, 609 695-3481, x110.

III. 2020 Annual League Conference

a. Print Your CEU Certificates from the 2020 NJLM Virtual Conference

The tracking system from the 2020 NJLM Virtual Conference is now open. To print your certificates visit the [Tracking System webpage](#).

The system will be available until **May 1, 2021**.

b. It's Not Too Late!

We hope that the NJLM Virtual Conference allowed you to look back and forward on the challenges of the day, be it the COVID-19 pandemic, social and restorative justice or how

to balance the competing interests in preparing for your 2021 budget. While we hope to be back in-person in Atlantic City in 2021, the virtual conference offers a unique benefit. The content of the approximately 80 programs and 145 virtual exhibitor booths will be available on-demand through October 31, 2021.

Anyone who is registered can simply log in to [the Conference website](#) to view any of the programs or visit any of the exhibitor booths. And for those who did not attend, it's not too late. We will continue to accept [registrations](#) for access to the Conference site. Those who register now will not be able to apply for CEUs but will have full access to all programs and exhibit booths. And please continue to visit the exhibitors who chose to support the 105th Annual Conference by stopping by their booths. You can contact exhibitors directly with any questions or comments by simply using the "Request Information" button on each booth. This will generate an automatic email to the exhibitor and they will contact you with a reply.

IV. Also of Interest

a. Cannabis Survey

With the new law creating a legal marijuana market in New Jersey, the League has worked with the Cannabis Advisory Group (CAG) to develop a survey for New Jersey mayors. The purpose of [this survey](#) is to identify the most pressing challenges and concerns facing their communities in preparation for the sale of both medical and adult-use cannabis and help inform and guide our work with the State Cannabis Regulatory Commission.

We thank CAG for their partnership on this initiative. The [survey is available online](#) should take no more than ten minutes and we ask that be respond by April 30.

Any questions can be directed to Executive Director Mike Cerra at mcerra@njlm.org.

b. NJ Infrastructure Bank 2021 Webinar

The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank will be holding [webinars](#) on April 22, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and April 29, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The webinars will discuss program and financing changes coming in State Fiscal Year 2022 Program Financing Enhancements including utilization of WIFIA Program funds and introductions of blended interest rates as well as New Principal Forgiveness Loan Opportunities including small system lead remediation and harmful algal blooms.

Contact: Lori Buckelew, Assistant Executive Director, lbuckelew@njlm.org, 609-695-3481, x112.

c. Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit Program

On national Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day, the New Jersey Department of Treasury launched a statewide awareness campaign to encourage eligible taxpayers to take advantage of New Jersey's expanded program. Beginning with the 2020 tax filing New Jersey's Earned Income Tax Credit (NJEITC) is increasing to 40% of the federal credit an average of \$882 as well as lowering the minimum age eligibility for EITC from 25

to 21 years of age.

Treasury has created a wide range of [promotional materials that can be found online](#) for any partners looking to help raise awareness about the NJEITC. More information on NJEITC including eligibility is available at the New Jersey Earned Income Tax Credit [website](#).



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