



To Our Lakewood Residents:

The Township of Lakewood, in partnership with Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus (MMSC), an RWJBarnabas Health facility, urges you to remain steadfast in the fight against COVID-19. Ocean County positive cases stand at a total of 10,826. Although the peak of the pandemic has passed, our fight is not over. Lakewood suffered a staggering 196 losses due to COVID-19 and that number could rise.

Maintaining the safety of you and your loved ones is our top priority and the best way to do that is to continue to practice social distancing and wearing a mask during all of your daily activities.

The CDC provides the following guidelines for events and gatherings:

Lowest risk: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.

More risk: Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

Higher risk: Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.

Highest risk: Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

We recognize that patients and their families may be fearful of seeking medical care at this time, but needed care should not be delayed. MMSC and all the RWJBarnabas Health facilities are going above and beyond the CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of all. Emergency services as well as surgery, screenings and outpatient testing are safe and accessible to all patients.

As a high reliability organization, safety comes first and RWJBarnabas Health is taking the appropriate precautions and using best practices to continue to ensure the highest quality care, protection, support and comfort for all of our patients.

Some of these measures include:

- Adherence to the guidance and established criteria of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Hospital Association, leading national associations of nurses, surgeons and anesthesiologists, and the New Jersey Department of Health.
- Staff vigilance regarding the appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with all patients, including COVID-19 positive and non-COVID patients.
- Stringent cleaning and disinfection throughout our facility and in all rooms, including UV lighting cleaning of equipment and surfaces.
- Active screening of team members, patients and visitors upon entering a facility, for temperature, symptoms and travel history
- **EVERY** patient admitted to our hospitals will be tested for COVID-19, including surgical patients prior to procedures and all Emergency Department patients exhibiting symptoms and all laboring birth mothers and partners.

- Requiring everyone who enters a facility to wear a mask or face covering, per CDC universal masking guidelines.
- Social and physical distancing measures for all people in our facilities – in all employee and patient areas – such as minimizing time in waiting areas, spacing chairs at least 6 feet apart, marking floors with tape at proper intervals and maintaining low patient flow so as not to cause crowding.
- Continued preparation and readiness for potential future surges.
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MMCSC has many resources available on their website in both English and Spanish at:

<https://www.rwjbh.org/patients-visitors/what-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19/ensuring-your-safety-at-our-facilities/> and they have also developed a *COVID-19 Survivors Rehabilitation and Recovery Program* for members of the community who may have lingering health issues after COVID-19.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep everybody safe. Together we can reduce the spread of COVID-19!
Special thanks to our heroes at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, Lakewood's hospital partner.

Sincerely,

Mayor Raymond G. Coles
Township of Lakewood

Frank J. Vozos, MD, FACS, Chief Executive, MMCSC
Executive Vice President, RWJBarnabas Health