



State of New Jersey

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Lt. Governor

ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE NO. 2020-1

TO: All Chief Law Enforcement Executives

FROM: Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General

DATE: March 19, 2020

SUBJECT: **Directive Instructing All Law Enforcement Agencies And Officers On The Appropriate Use Of COVID-19 Information From Public Health Officers**

Law enforcement officers across New Jersey have requested additional information to protect themselves when responding to calls for service at addresses where individuals with COVID-19 reside. To address these concerns, the Office of the Attorney General immediately engaged with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). In response, on March 18, 2020, NJDOH issued a memorandum to all New Jersey Local Public Health Officers instructing them to share with law enforcement limited information regarding those addresses where an individual has tested positive for COVID-19, but at the same time placing careful limits on both the use and dissemination of that information. The sharing of this limited information is authorized by the Emergency Health Powers Act, specifically N.J. Stat. Ann. 26:13-13-1, *et seq.* That decision will aid us in keeping our law enforcement officers healthy and safe, while at the same time protecting the privacy of all New Jersey residents.

This information offers a critical tool for our law enforcement officers, who are stepping up across New Jersey to protect the public's safety in the face of unprecedented challenges. Although all law enforcement officers know that we must take precautions to protect officer health and safety in all interactions, we also know that law enforcement agencies face a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and must have all available relevant information to help put our PPE to best use and to best promote officer safety. The limited information provided—available only to officers while they are responding to a call for service at an affected address—is to be used only for the limited purpose of ensuring officer safety at a time when officers are ensuring ours.

NJDOH's memorandum regarding such information sharing is attached as Ex. A, and NJDOH's findings are incorporated by reference. This Directive reaffirms the careful limits NJDOH placed



on the use and dissemination of COVID-19 information shared by Public Health Officers, and it mandates that all state, county, and municipal law enforcement officers adhere to those limits.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority granted to me under the New Jersey Constitution and Criminal Justice Act of 1970, N.J.S.A. 52:17B-97 to -117, I, Gurbir S. Grewal, hereby DIRECT all law enforcement agencies operating under the authority of the laws of the State of New Jersey to implement and comply with the following policies, procedures, standards, and practices:

1. All state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies responsible for enforcing criminal laws in New Jersey shall immediately inform the appropriate Public Health Officer of a single point of contact (either individual or position within an agency) who will accept receipt of COVID-19 information from that Public Health Officer and who will directly input that information into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.
2. Unless otherwise provided by an authorized public health agency, state, county, and municipal law enforcement officers may only be informed that there has been a case of a positive COVID-19 laboratory test at a particular address through the CAD system, and only when they are responding to a call for service at that address, and they may not disseminate that information further.
3. State, county, and municipal law enforcement officers may only use this information for the limited purpose of protecting their health and safety, and the health and safety of other officers responding to that call for service.
4. No state, county, or municipal law enforcement officer may use this information as a basis to refuse a call for service.
5. Nothing in this Directive restricts a law enforcement officer or agency from handling a call for service in accordance with the agency's general procedures, such as phone, electronic, or any other applicable reporting.

This Directive shall take effect immediately. The provisions of this Directive shall remain in force and effect unless and until NJDOH revokes its March 18, 2020 memorandum (Ex. A), or unless and until this Directive is repealed, amended, or superseded by Order of the Attorney General, whichever comes first.



Gurbir S. Grewal
Attorney General

ATTEST:



Veronica Allende
Director, Division of Criminal Justice
Dated: March 19, 2020