



# MEMO

**To:** All Local Health Officers  
**From:** Shereen Semple, Director  
Office of Local Public Health  
**Date:** March 18, 2020  
**Subject:** Updated COVID-19 Information Sharing with Law Enforcement

At the direction of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and Commissioner of Health today, Wednesday March 18, 2020, please contact your local Police Department and determine a single point of contact, who has direct access to update the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, and provide the following information to the designated single point of contact at the local Police Department by 5pm each day:

- A list of private residence locations by address where a case of positive COVID-19 laboratory test is located in the Local Health Department's jurisdiction. Include the following statement in the daily email:

*This e-mail, including any attachments, includes confidential information pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, specifically NJSA 26:13-13-1, et seq. This email and any attachments are confidential, not public documents, not subject to disclosure under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and may only be used or disclosed in accordance with the Emergency Health Powers Act, specifically NJSA 26:13-17, as approved by the New Jersey Attorney General and Commissioner of Health. If you received this e-mail in error, you are not authorized to review, transmit, convert to hard copy, retain a copy, or in any way further use or disseminate this e-mail, any attachments, or any information contained therein. You must immediately notify the sender, delete this message and notify the New Jersey Department of Health's Data Privacy Officer immediately at [privacy.officer@doh.nj.gov](mailto:privacy.officer@doh.nj.gov) and confirm in writing that you deleted the email(s)/attachment(s) and that you did not/will not further use or disclose the email, attachment(s) or information contained in the email.*

Effective Thursday March 19, 2020, Local Public Health Officers are to add the following information to the daily secure email set forth above:

- A list of private residence locations by address where a previously reported positive now has a negative laboratory test.

Local Public Health Officers are permitted to share this information with Law Enforcement pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, specifically NJSA 26:13-17 (a)(4) and (b)(5).

The OAG advised that the single point of contact at your local Police Department will use this location information to enter a confidential flag in the CAD system. The OAG advised that when a law enforcement officer responds to a call for service and inputs the name/address in the CAD system, a flag is generated with a message that there is a potential COVID-19 exposure at

that location so the officer can take necessary precautions, including donning Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The OAG advised this flag and location information will be displayed only when queried by the responding law enforcement officer, on a limited need-to-know basis while en route responding to a call for service. The OAG advised that the limited purpose of sharing this information and entering a flag in the CAD system is to alert the law enforcement officer(s) so that mitigation steps can be taken to use appropriate PPE when responding to a call for service at an identified location. Upon receipt of the list of addresses with negative COVID-19 tests, the single point of contact at the local Police Department will remove the flag in the CAD system.

The OAG advised that law enforcement will be instructed that they are prohibited from any further use or disclosure of this information, that this information is confidential, and that this information is not subject to disclosure under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). Note that, in a declared public health emergency environment of rapidly changing information, law enforcement officers cannot solely rely on this flag in the CAD system and must continue to appropriately screen calls for service in order to protect the life, safety and health of New Jersey's law enforcement officers.

Effective Wednesday March 18, 2020, please notify the Department of Health's Director of the Office of Local Public Health if you learn that this information is being used for any other purpose, e.g. if this information is being used to deny or avoid the provision of services to identified locations. To notify the Director, or should you have any questions, please contact Shereen Semple in the Department's Office of Local Public Health at [shereen.semple@doh.nj.gov](mailto:shereen.semple@doh.nj.gov).

Should local Police Departments have any questions, please advise them to contact their county Prosecutor's Office and the county Prosecutor's Office will contact the OAG through normal channels. Please feel free to share this email with local Police Departments as needed.