



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor


SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

June 4, 2018

SHEREEF M. ELNAHAL, MD, MBA
Commissioner

TO: Licensed Inpatient Facility Administrators

FROM: Shereef M. Elnahal, MD, MBA
Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Temporary Operational Waivers during a State of Emergency

In the event of a State of Emergency as declared by the Governor of New Jersey in an Executive Order, that so significantly affects the ability of a licensed inpatient facility to offer its full array of services or forces it to evacuate its patients/residents, or causes a licensed facility to accommodate evacuated patients/residents from another facility, the Department of Health (Department) will not require prior Department approval of temporary waivers for the following requirements from licensed facilities that are affected by such an event:

1. Exceeding licensed bed capacity;
2. Bed additions requiring prior Certificate of Need approval;
3. Physical space requirements; or
4. Staff qualifications requirements.

Affected inpatient facilities (those licensed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:36, 39, 43G & 43H) will be required to provide a written report to the Department detailing which, if any, of the above actions were implemented, the duration of the implementation, and any adverse outcomes attributable to the actions. Once the State of Emergency is mitigated, inpatient facilities will be required to return to the previously licensed capacity and to operate in accordance with all licensure standards.

You may review various important and useful Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) documents related to emergency preparedness at the following website:

<https://www.cms.gov/SurveyCertEmergPrep>

Please remember to maintain contact with your local and/or County Office of Emergency Management and your regional Medical Coordination Center during a State of Emergency. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. John Calabria, Director, Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program at 609-292-8773.

cc: Shereen Semple, Assistant Commissioner
John Calabria, Director
Local Health Officers