



A message from Ocean County Freeholder Director Joseph H. Vicari Chairman of the Office of Senior Services

Ocean County is home to more than 173,000 senior citizens and during this time of uncertainty, many of you may have questions and concerns about what is going on around you. As Chairman of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services I want to remind you that help is available in Ocean County. You are not alone.

The outbreak of the coronavirus has made many of us feel vulnerable and isolated as we face a challenge that we have never met before. Let me allay some of your fears. My colleagues and I on the Board of Freeholders, along with Ocean County Sheriff Michael G. Mastronardy, the Ocean County Office of Emergency Management, the Ocean County Health Department and a seasoned and professional staff of Ocean County government workers is working tirelessly to provide you with information and assistance during this time.

Programs and services are available to you even though restrictions have been placed on our government buildings for the safety of the public and our employees. We are there every day for you and we want you to reach out to us.

While getting around may seem impossible at this time, I encourage you to pick up your phone and call us starting with the Office of Senior Services at 732-929-2091 or my office at 732-929-2002 or the county switchboard at 732-244-2121. You can find a great deal of information online also on the Ocean County website at www.co.ocean.nj.us

I also urge the caregivers who maybe cannot get to their family members right now to also reach out. We are doing all we can to protect our citizens and continue to serve them in every way possible.

Whether you need a home delivered meal, assistance picking up your prescriptions, someone to do your grocery shopping or information on COVID-19 testing, help is only a phone call away.

I want to personally remind you – Ocean County Government is here for you, today and always.

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Need Support to Stay Home?

For seniors living in Ocean County a simple trip to the grocery store can now place their health and well-being at risk. While many major food stores have set aside hours for our seniors to shop, panic shopping has left many store shelves empty requiring this vulnerable population to venture out several times a week for much needed food and supplies. Help with your food shopping needs is now available to all residents of Ocean County age 60 and older through a unique collaboration between the county, municipalities and non-profit agencies.

The Ocean County Office of Senior Services in partnership with Jersey Cares, Toms River Twp. Senior Center & Outreach, Brick Twp. Senior Center & Outreach, Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey, Jackson Twp. Senior Center, Berkeley Senior Outreach, Manchester Twp. Senior Outreach and St. Francis Senior Center & Outreach in Long Beach Island will provide food-shopping services to residents age 60 and over. This partnership will allow our seniors to have their food shopping needs met with one phone call without having to leave the safety of your home.

You can access this service by calling:

Berkeley Senior Outreach: 732-244-9600

Brick Township Senior Center and Outreach: 732-920-8686

Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey: 732-505-2273

Jackson Township Senior Citizen's Community Center: 732-928-2313

Long Beach Island Senior Center and Outreach: 609-978-6220

Manchester Township Senior Outreach: 732-849-8305

Toms River Twp. Senior Center and Outreach: 732-341-1000, Ext. 8460

Protecting Yourself from Scams

Unfortunately, there are scammers trying to take advantage of this crisis by pretending to sell you tests or medicines. The best defense is to say NO to anyone you do not know who contacts you (by phone, in person, by text message or email) and asks for your Social Security Number, bank account number, credit card information, Medicare ID, driver's license number or any other personally identifiable information.

"Beware of Scammers", anyone who has been contacted by a suspected scammer is asked to call the Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs at 732-929-2105 or the Ocean County office of Senior Services at 732-929-2091.