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## **Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex Counties Join Forces To Develop Business Re-opening Plan**

The Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex County Freeholders have announced they are working together to develop a regional plan to re-open local businesses that are struggling financially as a result of the Governor's shut down orders. All three counties are calling it critical to re-start local businesses, as none of the three have received any direct federal or state stimulus money.

The three Boards of Chosen Freeholders have instructed their Administrations, Health Departments, and other resources to prepare a plan in conjunction with Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Orders to get their local businesses and the economy back-up and running. Once prepared, the plan for a progressive reopening of the region will be submitted to Governor Murphy.

### Hunterdon County Statement:

Hunterdon County Freeholder Board Director Shaun C. Van Doren stated, "The public is aware that COVID-19 is contagious and can be dangerous. And they understand that precautions must be taken when visiting a business. Let's empower our businesses to develop the tools that both protect their customers' health and give their customers the confidence that local businesses are safe to visit."

### Warren County Statement:

Freeholder Sarnoski commented, "As three of the four counties that did not receive funding through the CARES act or any pass-through funding from the state; Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren Counties have been particularly hurt by the shutdown due to the Coronavirus. Restarting our economy is critical to getting us back on our feet and preventing our businesses from closing entirely. Together we will come up with a quick and safe way to do just that."

### Sussex County Statement:

"The reopening of our local businesses in a safe and efficient manner is of primary importance to us. The rural character of our region makes this of primary importance especially in light of the fact that we have received no Federal or State funding during the Covid pandemic," said Sussex County Freeholder Director Sylvia Petillo. "This regional approach will provide for a unified means of reviving the economy and protecting public health and safety."

**"Ensuring Our Quality of Life Now and for the Future"**