

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 146

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 23, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Encourages licensed hospitals Statewide to construct pre-triage tents outside of their buildings.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** encouraging hospitals to construct pre-
2 triage tents outside of their buildings.

4 **WHEREAS,** A major epidemic or pandemic can overwhelm the capacity
5 of outpatient facilities, emergency departments (EDs), hospitals, and
6 intensive care units, leading to critical shortages of staff, space, and
7 supplies, and increased risk to health care providers with serious
8 implications for patient outcomes; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Hospitals and public health agencies in the United States
10 should be practicing scarcity scenarios related to the Covid-19 virus.
11 Although many states have formal crisis standards of care plans, few
12 hospitals have practiced implementing them. And though most
13 clinicians are familiar with the concept of triage, few have ever had
14 to implement it; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Currently, the federal Centers for Disease Control and
16 Prevention (CDC) requires airborne isolation for testing; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In light of the CDC guidelines, hospitals and public health
18 agencies should implement plans for the diversion of non-critical,
19 possible COVID-19 cases and other respiratory illnesses at a triage
20 point prior to a patient's entry at an ED, hospital, or other health care
21 facility; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Pre-triage tents are meant as an outdoor place to handle
23 surge capacity, screen and treat patients without risking the spread of
24 the COVID-19 virus and other airborne pathogens, rapidly evaluate,
25 identify, isolate, and treat those with suspected COVID-19, screen
26 and discharge minor cases to prevent congestion at hospitals and
27 other health care facilities, and to limit the risk to the health care
28 providers evaluating patients; now, therefore,

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
31 *Jersey:*

1. This House urges all licensed hospitals in the State of New Jersey to construct pre-triage tents outside their buildings in order to handle surge capacity, screen and treat patients without risking the spread of the COVID-19 virus and other airborne pathogens, rapidly evaluate, identify, isolate, and treat those with suspected COVID-19, screen and discharge minor cases to prevent congestion at hospitals, and to limit the risk to the health care providers evaluating patients.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly, to every licensed hospital in the State of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

48 This resolution urges all licensed hospitals in the State of New
49 Jersey to construct pre-triage tents outside their buildings in order to

- 1 handle surge capacity, screen and treat patients without risking the
- 2 spread of the COVID-19 virus and other airborne pathogens, rapidly
- 3 evaluate, identify, isolate, and treat those with suspected COVID-19,
- 4 screen and discharge minor cases to prevent congestion at hospitals,
- 5 and to limit the risk to the health care providers evaluating patients.