



State of New Jersey  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
*Commissioner*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 20-028**

**GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH CLUBS/GYMS/FITNESS CENTERS PURSUANT  
TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 181**

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the Disaster Control Act, N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq., in the State of New Jersey for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Emergency was extended by Governor Murphy under Executive Orders 119, 138, 151, 162, 171 and 180; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 181, allowing "health clubs," as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:8-39, to open indoor operations as of Tuesday, September 1, 2020, subject to certain requirements that include but are not limited to following guidelines and directives issued by the New Jersey Department of Health, the CDC and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, as applicable; and

WHEREAS, under the declared public health emergency, the Commissioner of the Department of Health is empowered, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-12, to take all reasonable and necessary measures to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and apply proper controls and treatment for infectious disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH PERSICILLI, Commissioner of the DOH, pursuant to the powers afforded to me under the Emergency Health Powers Act, hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. This Executive Directive pertains to “health clubs,” as defined by N.J.S.A. 56:8-39.
2. All health clubs shall comply with the attached Department of Health standards entitled “GUIDANCE FOR HEALTH CLUBS/GYMS/FITNESS CENTERS,” as amended and supplemented.

This Directive shall take effect immediately. The provisions of this Directive shall remain in force and effect for the duration of the public health emergency originally declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020), and as extended by Executive Order, unless otherwise modified, supplemented and/or rescinded.



August 27, 2020

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Judith Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.  
Commissioner