

# Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

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## **MEDIA RELEASE – MARCH 12, 2020**

### **POTENTIAL PRICE GOUGING POSSIBLE DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Acting Prosecutor Michael J. Williams is alerting the public to be vigilant concerning price gouging related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Price increases on items like surgical masks, gloves, sanitizing products, gas, etc., could have the potential to be considered price gouging.

According to Acting Prosecutor Williams, “New Jersey's price gouging law prohibits excessive price increases during a declared state of emergency, or for 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency. Excessive price increases are defined as those that are more than 10% higher than the price at which merchandise was sold during the normal course of business prior to the state of emergency. If you believe these illegal practices are taking place, I urge you to contact the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.”

Anyone who suspects price gouging and other COVID-19 related fraud can file a complaint online at [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov) or contact the Division of Consumer Affairs by phone at (973) 504-6240. Please leave your name, contact information, nature of the complaint, and the name of the business and location.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010, going online at [www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com](http://www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com) or through the free “P3 Tips” smartphone app. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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