

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Announces Independent Review of State's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

11/28/2022

First-in-the-Nation Independent Review to be Led by Paul Zoubek of Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads and the Boston Consulting Group

TRENTON - Governor Murphy today announced the beginning of an independent review of the State's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the state of readiness in early 2020, and how the State responded to the many challenges that emerged over the last three years.

The team at Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoades will be led by Paul Zoubek, who served as First Assistant Attorney General during the administrations of Republican Governors Christie Whitman and Donald DiFrancesco.

"The COVID-19 pandemic was one of the biggest challenges our State - and nation - has ever faced," said Governor Murphy. "Throughout the pandemic, my responsibility as Governor demanded that I make every decision based on the available data, facts, and science in order to preserve the health and safety of all 9.3 million residents, regardless of the politics."

"While COVID-19 is still present in our state, nation, and world, we have moved from the pandemic to the endemic phase, and now is the right time to undertake such an independent review," continued Governor Murphy. "As a widely respected, apolitical, and experienced state and federal prosecutor, Paul Zoubek is exactly the right person to lead this review, and has the experience in emergency management and government investigations that makes him perfectly suited for this task."

The comprehensive review of the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic will include, but not be limited to, the state of readiness in New Jersey for a pandemic in early 2020, prominent emergency policy decisions that were made by the New Jersey government, the pandemic response with respect to vulnerable residents, including members of congregate care settings, and the state government's efforts to continue core functions, including providing direct services to residents.

The review will conclude with a comprehensive report that is expected to be released in late 2023 and will contain recommendations for enhancements and reforms to better prepare the State for the next public health crisis.

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Statewide

Table with 4 columns: Home (/governor/), Administration, Key Initiatives, Social, and NJ Home. It lists various links for the Governor's office, including initiatives, education, environment, health, law & justice, transportation, and contact information.



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(http://drumthwacket.org/) Executive Orders

(/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo\_archive.html)

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Direct Appointments

(/governor/news/appointments)

Advice and Consent

Appointments

(/governor/news/acappointments)

Statements on

Legislation

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