Coronavirus will keep N.J. schools closed at least through May 15, Murphy says

Gov. Phil Murphy said Thursday that New Jersey schools will remain closed for the rest of the academic year because of the coronavirus pandemic, and he extended his state-wide order to stay at home through May 15.

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“While the rate of infection in New Jersey is slowly declining, we need to continue our aggressive social distancing to prevent any resurgence of infections,” Murphy said.

The state’s largest teachers union commended the extended closure.

“We are grateful to Governor Murphy for his continued leadership in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Steve Baker, spokesman for the New Jersey Education Association.

“Until schools reopen, whenever that is, we remain committed to providing the best possible education and services under these current challenging circumstances,” said Baker.

Health experts insist New Jersey needs to see a prolonged decline in infections, hospitalizations and fatalities before the schools can safely reopen.

The governor has also banned social gatherings and mandated nonessential work at home.

On Monday, Murphy said the state’s death toll from COVID-19, as of that day, was 3,518. N.J. now has at least 75,317 cases of COVID-19, as of this writing, according to the Department of Health.

New Jersey classrooms will stay empty as the state battles the coronavirus pandemic.

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