



NJ Transit expanding use of new fare card

YOUR REGION, 5A

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NJ pulls back on group home transparency

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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

New Jersey for the first time recently posted information online about punishments meted out to poorly performing group homes for adults with developmental disabilities, but then – without explanation – quickly hid the information.

The state has historically kept the public in the dark about when and why it decides a company is not allowed to accept new residents or that a home must close. To fill that void, NorthJersey.com created a searchable tool using public records requests as part of its Hidden at Home investigative series. The tool allows users to sift through licensing reports and other letters that

illustrate serious concerns about a company’s performance, ranging from the quality of resident care and staffing levels to the physical conditions of the homes. In the wake of the series, the Department of Human Services – the agency that oversees the group home system – posted a link on its website to a list of companies it had punished. The list was an addendum to its report card, a

resource that grades group homes that many families and disability advocates have said they found lacking. The list that was briefly linked on the Department of Human Services website showed which companies received the most serious punishments between Jan. 1, 2024, and July 31, 2025. The list included details such as:
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Tylenol risk debatable?



Tylenol is displayed for sale behind a locked anti-theft barrier at a pharmacy. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said it would continue to recommend acetaminophen as “a safe, trusted option for pain relief during pregnancy” despite President Donald Trump’s claims Sept. 22. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS

NJ autism expert weighs in on Trump’s pregnancy warning

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In a state with one of the higher rates of autism, President Donald Trump’s announcement Sept. 22 that Tylenol’s active ingredient — acetaminophen — raises the risk of autism in children if taken by pregnant women may resonate with many New Jersey families. But is it true? Some studies have suggested a link. Others have said there is none. Still, Trump repeatedly urged pregnant women not to take Tylenol, during a

“There is not a consensus on the link between acetaminophen use in pregnancy and autism.”

Kaitlin Mulcahy
Director of Montclair State University’s Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health
news conference Sept. 22 with Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. “Fight like hell not to take it,” he said.

“Taking Tylenol is not good,” he said. “For this reason, they are strongly recommending that women limit Tylenol use during pregnancy unless medically necessary. That’s, for instance, in cases of extremely high fever, that you feel you can’t tough it out.” Several medical groups said Trump’s claims are unfounded. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said it would continue to recommend acetaminophen as “a safe, trusted option for pain relief during pregnancy.”

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Political Stile
Charles Stile
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sherrill, Ciattarelli plant feet mostly in the center

In their first debate, both major candidates for New Jersey governor did their best to stay planted in safe, centrist turf. Jack Ciattarelli, the Republican nominee, worked to sand over his support for President Donald Trump’s broadly unpopular agenda as a sensible, good-for-Jersey posture. It took some considerable squinting at Trump’s divisive, White nationalist and generally chaotic second term. And his Democratic rival, Rep. Mikie Sherrill, was quick to punch holes in his Trump sanitizing. But Ciattarelli is banking on the belief that voters are demanding a homegrown, Trenton-devoted steward — and that it will outweigh any concerns about his alliance with Trump. He has sought to cast Sherrill as ill-prepared for the task of running the state. Sherrill, for her part, stayed on message, predictably attacking Ciattarelli as a Trumpian — but avoiding being cornered on positions that would easily cast her as a left-leaning Democrat. Her aim was to reinforce an image as a generic moderate — a tabula rasa on specifics — while casting herself as a champion of affordability. The jockeying at the debate, held in front of a raucous crowd packed into

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