

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER

2600 Bayshore Road
Villas, New Jersey 08251



Incorporated 1798

(609) 886-2005

March 13, 2020

To the Residents of Lower Township,

As you are aware, the World is currently in the midst of dealing with a public health crisis associated with the emergence of the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) which has been impacting communities all across the globe. The Township of Lower has been closely monitoring this rapidly evolving situation, and we want to ensure the residents of Lower Township that we are doing everything possible to mitigate concerns and problems which have, and may arise, in connection with this situation. We have been in constant communication with our State and County Representatives, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the Cape May County Department of Health in order to obtain the most accurate and updated information associated with this virus to ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to safeguard the health, safety, and general welfare of our community. Public Health Officials are urging members of the public to begin preparing for the possibility of a broader outbreak in the United States, and the Township of Lower is taking the necessary steps to prepare in the event that a broader outbreak occurs.

Some of the precautionary steps which we've implemented and which we recommend in an effort to minimize the spread of this virus include:

1. Encouraging all employees and students who are sick or develop any symptoms associated with the Coronavirus to refrain from attending work or school;
2. Minimizing the number of employees working within arm's length of others whenever and wherever possible;
3. Expansion of sick leave to employees so that sick employees are able to stay home from work in order to focus on their recovery and to limit possible exposure;
4. Eliminating the need for doctor's notes when/if an employee is out sick as healthcare providers are dealing with a substantial increase in the number of patients seeking care/treatment;
5. Recommending that employees and residents avoid close contact with people who are sick;
6. Increasing and expanding cleaning procedures and the use of disinfectants to safeguard residents and employees; this includes deep cleaning surfaces before, during and after scheduled events/meetings;
7. Encouraging residents and employees to avoid close contact with other individuals, and to endeavor to refrain from touching their mouth, nose, and eyes, and to ensure that they utilize a tissue, if available, or their elbow to cover coughs and sneezes;
8. Cancelling mass gatherings, consisting of more than 250 people, at any Township Facilities;
9. Frequent hand washing w/ soap & water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if no access to water;

Anyone with questions about the novel coronavirus, symptoms, or their risk of exposure, can call the free, New Jersey 24-hour public hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Rest assured, the Township of Lower is doing everything in its power to ensure the safety of the general public. As this situation evolves and unfolds, additional information will be disseminated. In the event additional restrictions and/or limitations associated with government services are required, we will be sure to keep you informed.

Respectfully,

Frank Sippel

Lower Township Mayor