

From the Mayor

Coronavirus Preemptive Measures Taken

Chatham Township is not immune from the COVID-19 virus which has impacted the everyday life of people around the world. It is clear that this virus is a real threat and that we must take it seriously and use common sense precautions that we see every day from many health experts. The numbers of those infected will grow as more people are tested and it is likely that it will impact our community if it has not already. This is not a reason to panic or stop living our lives, but it does call for caution, especially for our senior population and those with underlying health conditions that make it harder to cope and recover from illness.

The Township is doing what we can to prevent and prepare for a wide range of outcomes. Communication and education are essential to these efforts. On our official Township website (chathamtownship-nj.gov) and social media, we have made various information and resource links available. Our Board of Health has met and also distributed information. We held a meeting of our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) which includes representatives from all parts of our community including police, fire, ambulance, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), schools, the Library, our Board of Health, our local nursing homes and others. Our OEM and all of our departments have developed contingency plans for various scenarios, although that is difficult given the every-changing circumstances and the wide range of possible outcomes. We will be in communication with each other throughout this period to coordinate our response and keep you informed

After consultation with our local Board of Health, the Township Committee will hold its regular public meeting tonight, Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building at 58 Meyersville Road. Communication is especially vital at this sensitive time, and it is the obligation of the governing body to continue with important municipal business. The Township is taking the precaution to clean and sanitize all surfaces in the Committee Chambers before the meeting, and will clean again on Friday after the meeting. We urge all residents who may be particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, who may have a compromised medical or immune condition, or who are displaying any cold symptoms to avoid all public gatherings and, in this case, to consider watching the Township Committee meeting on live Cable TV, Verizon Fios Channel 26 or Comcast

Channel 29. The video recordings of all Township Committee meetings also are posted on the Township's website by the following Monday.

Coronavirus spreads through contact with respiratory droplets caused by coughing and sneezing. The same prevention methods used to avoid a common cold or the flu are the best ways to protect against infection, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Try to avoid touching your face.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home from school or work when you are sick.

As this situation evolves, it is likely that additional preemptive measures may become advisable or necessary in Chatham Township. We will follow the advice of our health professionals and keep the public advised on our website, social media, and ActNow e-blasts.

Mayor Michael Kelly