

Coronavirus Message from Mayor Al Morgan 03-23-2020

Like all other towns in New Jersey, New Providence has patients who are afflicted with the Coronavirus. At this time, those patients are recovering at home – none are hospitalized. As a community, they are in our thoughts and we wish them a speedy recovery.

A common request relates to sharing information about the patients whereabouts before they were diagnosed with the virus. We know that symptoms reveal themselves between 2 and 14 days of the patient becoming infected with the virus. During this incubation period, the patient can be considered contagious. Therefore, it would be essentially impossible to detail everywhere in town that they might have visited. As difficult as this is to hear, you should consider anyone you come in contact with to be infected and contagious. The practices that have been preached by the CDC for months continue to be the best advice to help flatten the curve and reduce the number of cases.

- Keep social distance – stay at least 6 feet away from other individuals
- Wash your hands – use soap and water and wash for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your face
- Stay home if you're sick – cover your cough and sneeze with your elbow and wash your hands often

While our parks are open, at no time should there be more than 10 people be gathered within a group. If residents do gather under that guideline, social distancing is required and will be enforced by the police, if necessary. We have noticed young people are gathering within the parks and removing caution tape around swing sets and playground equipment. We ask all parents to reinforce with their children their responsibilities as it relates to the parks. Also, while restaurants are permitted to be open for take-out orders, those waiting in line for pick-ups should practice social distancing. This is perhaps the single most important factor in helping to reduce the spread of the virus. In addition to closing the playgrounds and basketball court at the pool, we are also closing the tennis courts.

Governor Murphy issued executive orders over the weekend that require residents to stay at home, with limited exceptions, including; 1) obtaining goods or services from essential retail businesses, 2) obtaining takeout food or beverages from restaurants, other dining establishments, 3) seeking medical attention, essential social services, or assistance from law enforcement or emergency services; 4) visiting family or other individuals with whom the resident has a close personal relationship, 5) reporting to, or performing, their job; 6) walking, running, or engaging in outdoor activities with immediate family members, caretakers, household members, while following best social distancing practices with other individuals, including staying six feet apart; 7) leaving the home for an educational, religious, or political reason; 8) leaving because of a reasonable fear for his or her health or safety; or 9) leaving at the direction of law enforcement or other government agency. These executive orders have been posted on our web-site.

As you know, our municipal offices, the Library, and the DeCorso Center are closed to the public. Employees are continuing to work behind the scenes to maintain normal operations. If you have a question or concern, you are always welcome to [call our offices](#) at 665-1400 –

employees are available during business hours to assist. You can also use the **Online Payment & Business Center tab options** found on the borough website [Home page](#) or complete a [Contact Us form](#) to communicate with a specific department.

Compliance with the executive orders of the governor and adherence to CDC recommendation relating to social distancing, hand washing, staying home if you're sick and covering your cough and sneeze will help us flatten the curve and recover from these challenging time.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and support.