



# TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

COUNTY OF MORRIS

GILLETTE, HOMESTEAD PARK, MEYERSVILLE, MILLINGTON, STIRLING

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Following is the transcript of the PSA from Mayor Rae on Saturday, March 4, 2020:

This is Brendan Rae, Mayor of Long Hill Township on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> with an important Public Service Announcement.

In recognition of, and mourning for all those who lost their lives and have been affected by COVID-19, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 114 ordering that the United States flag and the flag of New Jersey be flown at half-mast indefinitely from April 3<sup>rd</sup> at all government buildings throughout the State. The constant sight of our flags at half-mast is not only a somber and necessary reminder of the life and death struggle in which we currently find ourselves, but also that we, each and every one of us, must resolutely and urgently answer the call to action. In Long Hill, I am happy to report that as individuals and as a community we are all doing our utmost to stem the tide of this pandemic. Our local government is on-line, municipal services on track, and first responder agencies are still functioning well and at full strength. Most gratifying of all has been the response from you, my fellow residents. From random acts of kindness to concerted efforts such as making masks, volunteering to assist those most at-risk, and gathering supplies for hospitals, the spirit of care and support has been on prominent display and a source of inspiration.

This coming Wednesday we will hold a Township Committee meeting via Zoom and I urge you to attend and participate, albeit remotely. Our last meeting by teleconference went well and we hope with the addition of video that we will be able to encourage and facilitate the usual level of live and lively engagement with you. In the next few weeks, again via Zoom, we will hold our first Town Hall meeting where the Township Department Heads, Health Department, Task Force representatives and Township Committee will be together to provide updates, take suggestions, and answer questions. It's my hope that these Town Halls will become a staple feature of our community life as we work our way through this Emergency.

Despite all that is going well, Long Hill hasn't come through the pandemic unscathed. As of yesterday, 10 of our fellow residents had tested positive for COVID-19. They and their families are in our thoughts and prayers as they deal with the illness and come to terms with the uncertainty and worry that it brings. As the number of positive cases in Long Hill increases, I urge that all patients, family members and those who are identified as close contacts strictly follow the rules of self-quarantine. Please call the Long Hill Community Hotline at (908) 647 8000 Extension 995 and tell us what you need to keep and maintain you in your home. You will never have to provide a reason for your request and no health questions will be asked. For information on measures and precautions to take after a positive COVID-19 test as well as all other facts and up to date news, please visit the Township website at [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov) and click on the COVID-19 page.

On a related topic, our Public Health Department urges that only residents who are symptomatic for COVID-19 seek testing. Testing, although becoming more commonplace with each passing week, is not yet so widespread that everyone can be accommodated. If you feel unwell, please call ahead to your healthcare provider rather than going directly to a testing center, ER or Urgent Care.

Finally, over the next few weeks, New Jersey may well have to brace itself for the grim news of overwhelmed medical facilities and a mounting death toll as it enters possibly the worst of the fight. But we knew that this phase of the battle was all but inevitable from the day we all embarked in earnest on this local, national and global campaign to beat the scourge of COVID-19. As I have often said, each of us can stem the tide of this pandemic with the simplest of measures - social distancing, good hygiene, and the reduction of our social circle to the smallest number possible. We are all inextricably bound together in the fight and if each of us does our part, and ensure that others do theirs, the number of new cases will eventually decrease, our medical infrastructure will ultimately prevail, and many, many lives will be spared.

Thank you and be safe and healthy.

Brendan P. Rae

Mayor

Long Hill Township