



TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

COUNTY OF MORRIS

GILLETTE, HOMESTEAD PARK, MEYERSVILLE, MILLINGTON, STIRLING

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This is Brendan Rae, Mayor of Long Hill Township on Monday April 6th with an important Public Service Announcement.

This morning, the Bernards Township Health Department informed the COVID-19 Task Force that there are 25 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Long Hill Township. Because of the increase of 15 cases from my last report on Saturday, I want to provide an explanation and assure everyone that there is no cause for concern.

When anyone visits a public or private test center in the State, their COVID-19 status is logged into a central database that ultimately reports to the Health Department in the municipality where the person resides. Because of the increase in both the number of tests being performed and the locations at which testing is available, every town in New Jersey is experiencing a similar increase in the number of positive cases. In addition, we have noticed that there can be a lag in the timing of the notification of positive cases to the municipalities. This lag is variable and is due to the time it currently takes to perform the test plus the time the information takes to make its way through the various levels of reporting.

Today's report of 25 positive cases is therefore not a cause for concern locally. As a Task Force, we keep abreast of the numbers of confirmed cases that are being reported in other municipalities in Morris County as well as the surrounding towns in Somerset and Union counties. Today's update really brings us into line with these jurisdictions.

There is no doubt in the coming weeks, as testing becomes more commonplace, that we will see the number of cases in Long Hill and elsewhere continue to grow. However, I can assure you that the State, County and local agencies responsible for testing and reporting are doing their utmost to coordinate more efficiently and we anticipate that the current time lag in reporting will decrease significantly.

The magnitude of today's increase, while not a cause for concern, is a reminder to us all that we are not in a time of complacency. We are dealing with a highly transmissible virus whose spread can only be stemmed with our strict adherence to all practices associated with social distancing, good hygiene, and the minimization of social contacts to as few as possible. On this subject, I remind you that the spread of the novel coronavirus is not based on age. Please do not allow your children to freely play with other children. By doing so, you increase the risk of transmission and not only endanger yourself and your loved ones but also prolong the time course of this pandemic and its associated loss of life. Physical distancing at all ages is social solidarity.

Finally, more than ever, please remember if you, a family member, or a close contact has received confirmation of a positive test for COVID-19, it is absolutely essential that you strictly adhere to all of the rules of self-isolation and self-quarantine. Please call the Long Hill Community hotline at (908) 647 8000 extension 995 to tell us what you need to keep and maintain you at home for the entire period of your quarantine.

Thank you and, as always, stay safe and healthy.

Brendan P. Rae
Mayor
Long Hill Township