



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 Tuesday April 14th with an important Public Service Announcement.

I want to update you after yesterday's COVID-19 Task Force meeting. Today, some 42 days since New Jersey recorded its first positive case of COVID-19, I am happy to report that Long Hill continues to weather the storm of this pandemic in terms of the amount of supplies on hand and on order for its first responders; uninterrupted services; and the health of its essential personnel. I commend all who have made this possible. As of today, there are 31 residents who have confirmed positive tests for COVID-19. These patients and their families are in our thoughts and prayers as we wish them a full and speedy recovery.

Important news today from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office serves to underscore the continued threat of the spread of the novel coronavirus and the seriousness of our County and State authorities' efforts at prevention. Please be aware that even if a person cannot wear a mask due to a valid medical reason, then that person cannot enter a grocery store, restaurant, or any other essential business. If the business is selling food, medicine or medical supplies it must make alternative arrangements for the purchase but no one can enter without a mask. For additional information, please visit the Long Hill Police Department's Facebook page.

This coming Friday, 17th April, at 1:30 pm we will hold a Virtual Town Hall Meeting. The Township Committee will gather with key members of the COVID-19 Task Force including the Public Health Department, and other Department Heads such as the Township CFO, to discuss the Township's response to the pandemic and answer questions from residents. The meeting will be held via Zoom and by telephone, so please check the COVID-19 page of the Township website at www.longhillnj.gov for details on how to access it as well as LHTV. As always, the COVID-19 page of the website is your one stop shop for all the news and latest information on the COVID-19 Emergency and I encourage you to visit it regularly.

By way of reminder, please call the Community Hotline at (908) 647 8000 Extension 995 if you are in need of assistance related to shopping or obtaining medications. As a Township, we want to do everything in our power to maintain our most at-risk groups at home. Also, with the number of positive cases increasing, we especially want to keep patients, their families, and close contacts at home during the required periods of quarantine and self-isolation. If we are going to stop spread of the virus and keep those who are most vulnerable safe and healthy, it is essential that you contact us. On this subject, I especially thank the many Town Hall employees who, in addition to their daily duties, have volunteered to call seniors to assess needs as well as the many residents who, from the outset of this crisis, stepped up to do what they could to assist. Our Town Hall employees will continue to check in on our seniors throughout the time of the Emergency to make sure the Township can respond if needs change.

Finally, although we are hearing promising news that our efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 are showing signs of success, now is not the time to relax the high standards we have set and let our guard down. The virus is still highly transmissible and still circulates amongst us. In the absence of a vaccine or therapeutic, strict social distancing and good hygiene are the only weapons we have to slow or stop its spread. With over 100 ongoing clinical trials of new medications and vaccine candidates in various stages of development, there is optimism that the pharmaceutical industry will provide an antiviral treatment. However, we must continue with our vigilance and commitment unabated to prevent virus spread in order to give them the time they need to complete their valuable work. If we become complacent untold numbers of our fellow residents will die and this period of shut down will be prolonged.

As always, stay safe and healthy and strong in your commitment to stop spread of COVID-19.

Brendan P. Rae
Mayor
Long Hill Township