



TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

COUNTY OF MORRIS

GILLETTE, HOMESTEAD PARK, MEYERSVILLE, MILLINGTON, STIRLING

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Following is the transcript of Mayor's PSA from May 6th:

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

As of today, there are 42 patients who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in Long Hill Township. Although many patients have already recovered, it is of critical importance that newly diagnosed patients, their families and close contacts follow the rules of quarantine and isolation. Please do not hesitate to call the Community Non-Emergency Hotline at (908) 647-8000 Extension 995 if you or a loved one require assistance with tasks such as shopping or picking up medications that will allow you to remain at home.

The adverse psychological toll associated with the current situation cannot be underestimated. If you find yourself stressed or overwhelmed for any reason, I urge you to call the Community Mental Health Hotline at (908) 647-8000 Extension 998. This non-emergency hotline is staffed by experienced and caring therapists who will provide coping strategies to assist you to overcome any issues you might be facing.

Please also visit the COVID-19 page at the Long Hill Township website at www.longhillnj.gov for the latest news as well as for access to the Community Calendar, a comprehensive resource for online classes and activities designed to relieve stress.

The COVID-19 Task Force met on Monday and I'm happy to report that our Emergency Services, Township Administration, and Departments are working at full strength. Our level of preparedness remains high as does our commitment to maintaining the health and safety of our residents.

The Task Force has been working to provide our first responders access to COVID-19 antibody tests and this testing will be completed this week. Mass testing is extremely important and I am pleased to report that testing capacity is expanding. If you are a patient at Summit Medical Group, you can call the main number at (908) 273-4300 to book an antibody test now. If you aren't a patient with the Summit Medical Group, you can walk into any of the CityMD sites (locations online) and have the test performed there.

Over the last few weeks, the Task Force has also been discussing the changes to Township buildings and facilities that might have to be made for resident and employee safety as it plans for the relaxation of current restrictions that is expected to be announced by Governor Murphy over the next 2 to 4 weeks. The initial alterations to Town Hall have begun and are expected to be completed this week. As a Township Committee and a Task Force we are also committed to assisting our business community as much as possible in the reopening process and we look forward to a productive collaboration.

On the topic of reopening, we were happy to see State and County Parks open their gates to visitors once again this past weekend. As part of his Executive Order, Governor Murphy also gave municipalities the authority to open tennis courts. In Long Hill, the tennis courts opened at noon yesterday and so they are now available for use again. It was good that residents, with appropriate caution, were already taking advantage of the courts last night at Matthew G. Kantor Memorial Park.

Township business continues undiminished and I encourage you to join us at our on-line Township Committee meetings. Tonight, we are holding a special meeting to discuss the municipal budget. We plan to introduce the budget at the May 13th regularly scheduled meeting and finalize it at the last meeting of the month. At tonight's meeting we will also discuss the proposed extension of the tax payment grace period to June 1st.

In other news, remember that there will be 2 bulk pickups this month. The first during the week of the 11th and the second during the week of the 18th. For each pickup you can bring 2 items to the curb for a total of 4 items for the month.

Finally, with the news of FDA emergency approval of the first antiviral to treat COVID-19 last week and the positive trends seen in the number of new cases, it is fair to say we have come a long way to slow down the spread of the disease over the last few months. However, there is still much work to be done, especially as we look to the future and think about relaxing restrictions in order to begin economic recovery. For a sustained economic recovery, it is critically important we all continue to do our part by strictly adhering to the tried and true methods of social distancing and good hygiene that have gotten us to where we are today. They are still necessary if we are to enjoy a healthy future.

Thank you and stay safe and healthy and committed to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Brendan P. Rae
Mayor
Long Hill Township