



TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL

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From the Governing Body of Howell Township:

As many are well aware at this point, New Jersey has seen a marked increase in those affected by the Novel Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. We are just as concerned as our residents and will continue to relay information as it comes available. We are all in this together; the best weapon against panic is information.

What The Township Is Doing

The Howell Mayor and Council, Board of Education and Emergency Services have been collaborating to ensure our community remains safe and informed. Howell Township has been diligently working on plans to protect our employees and residents. Two weeks ago, our Department of Public Works began implementing a plan to daily sanitization of high traffic areas in our public buildings. Hand Sanitizer stations have been installed at various access points to buildings, to serve as a supplement to the regular handwashing recommended by medical professionals. New policies are being rolled out to the Township's first line of defense, our First Responders, so they may better protect themselves and report suspected cases to the Monmouth County Department of Health. Our Office of Emergency Management has been tasked with inventorying our stock of Personal Protective Equipment, to be available for our First Responders.

As far as Township Operations, staff are currently working on plans should it become necessary to order staff to work from home. We recommend that the public avail themselves of various resources through the Township's website, to avoid requiring residents to come to Town Hall to conduct business. We encourage our residents to use the Dropbox located at the rear entrance of Town Hall, or visit [ONLINE PAYMENTS](#).

Please check the [Howell website](#) for regular updates, and sign up for [Nixle Emergency Alert Notification](#). We are working with our partners in the local School District and will be posting any updates regarding the school district at this location as well and recommend [TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN](#), as a resource to educate your children about COVID-19.

Recently, an executive order was signed by the Governor declaring a State of Emergency for New Jersey. This action was taken to help strengthen the preparedness to contain the spread of COVID-19. This declaration safeguards us from price gouging, procures the expeditious

delivery of goods and services necessary for preparedness and response efforts, as well as empowers all State agencies to take all necessary steps to address this public health hazard. Please ensure you are educating yourselves how to best defend against the spread of this virus and make sure you are prepared with adequate food and medications as recommended by the [Center for Disease Control and Protection](#).

What You Can Do

1. Clean your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick

- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. TO DATE, WE HAVE NO REPORTED CASES IN HOWELL, AND WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER TO MINIMIZE THE SPREAD.

3. Stay home if you're sick, except to get medical care.

4. Cover coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Clean your hands.

5. Wear a facemask if you are sick

6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

- This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

More information is available from the CDC on its [Steps to Prevent Illness](#) page, as well as the [New Jersey Department of Health](#). For Mental Health and Coping Concerns (SAMSA), visit the CDC at [Covid Coping](#).