



TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL

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From the Howell Township Governing Body:

March 21, 2020

To the residents of Howell Township,

Yesterday Howell Township Officials received notification of its first case of a Howell resident testing positive for the COVID19 virus. As of this letter there are now 4 cases of Howell residents testing positive that have been reported to Township Officials. We cannot stress enough that our residents continue to follow the CDC's direction and maintain 'Social distancing'. As the virus is now in our community, this will be the strongest tool to help combat its spread and something every one of us can do to help.

As mentioned previously, all Municipal buildings will remain closed to public access until further notice. In an effort to comply with Governor Murphy's most recent [EXECUTIVE ORDER #107](#), a reduced staffing and remote work plan was just implemented for many Township employees, leaving a minimal number of staffing in the buildings. This will not apply to Public Safety positions. Although they have modified response plans, our residents can rest easy knowing we will ensure the level of protection they have come to expect. Please refer to previous updates for conducting business with the Township, during these trying times, or refer to our [SAVE THE TRIP GUIDE](#) for quick reference. As many residents have had questions about what establishments can remain open and which should close, you may review all of Governor Murphy's directives at this [link](#).

Currently, the Mayor and Council will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday March 24, 2020 at 6pm. This is subject to change, should the Governor require so. In an effort to allow for public participation, we would ask that residents contact 732-938-4500 x2155 or email PublicAccess@twp.howell.nj.us. You may leave your comments or questions in either forum; they will then be read into the record and addressed as appropriate. While we realize this is not a perfect solution; these are trying times and we, like many other towns, must create innovative methods to accomplish what would normally be considered routine tasks.

Howell Township has recently followed the lead of the State and Monmouth County and declared a local State of Emergency. Essentially, this allows the Township to participate in various programs offered and pursue funding, when it comes available and may be updated as needed. The impact this has to our citizens is no different than the Executive Orders issued by Governor Murphy. The Governor has specifically listed certain businesses to be considered “Essential” and may continue operating without limitations. Those businesses include Grocery/Food stores, pharmacies, medical supply stores, gas stations, healthcare facilities and ancillary stores within Healthcare Facilities.

Please continue to monitor the Howell Township website, <http://www.twp.howell.nj.us/covid19>, where we will be posting regular updates as they come available. Additionally, we have implemented a phone number, **732-961-5111** where the information contained in this letter will be conveyed. This number should be made available to any person who may not have a computer or internet access. Furthermore, residents can either visit <https://www.nj211.org/> or dial 2-1-1 from any phone for more information about the COVID19 virus and for resources available.