



TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL

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From the Howell Township Governing Body:

March 30, 2020

To the residents of Howell Township,

As of today there are 71 confirmed cases of COVID-19 cases affecting Howell residents. There has been some discrepancy in numbers being reported. Township officials are currently working through this issue as many towns are experiencing similar issues. Upon a positive test for COVID-19 the testing facility (Personal Physician, Lab, Hospital, etc.) reports that result to the NJ Department of Health. NJ then notifies the Monmouth County Board of Health. At that point, the information is relayed from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office to the Police Department. This information contains specific and detailed patient information including addresses. This information is highly confidential and can only be shared with First Responders when responding to an identified location to help ensure their safety. At the same time the Monmouth County Board of Health reports the number (without identifying information) to our Office of Emergency Management. This number is used for statistical tracking and is the number we most often publish. We have already identified a number of issues in reporting, the first being zip code based. The second issue is where patients identify as their hometown. For example, 2 patients have reported their hometown to be Ramtown. This caused a delay in the numbers being reported as Howell Township. We are working with the representatives from the various involved agencies to improve reporting processes. Regardless of the number reported, we cannot emphasize enough to our residents that staying at home, regular handwashing and social distancing; are the best methods we can all use to combat the spread of this virus.

We understand that these can be very trying times for all. Our Municipal Alliance remains available as a resource to our residents. Please visit their Facebook page, [Friends of the Howell Township Municipal Alliance](#), for further information. They recently published a Resource Guide that was provided from the NJ State Police.

For small business owners, the recently passed federal CARES Act pass on March 27, 2020 expands the ability to obtain loans under Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act through a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program subject to various requirements. Find out more at <https://www.sba.gov>

For those paying student loans, the CARES Act provides that through September 30, 2020 (subject to various requirements; please check with your student loan servicer) there shall be no:

- Federal student loan payment;
- Interest on federal student loan payments; and
- Garnishment of wages, Social Security and tax refunds for student loan debt collection.

For lessees, tenants, and homeowners, Governor Murphy's Executive Order 106 mandates that no lessee, tenant, homeowner, or any other person be removed from a residential property as the result of an eviction or foreclosure proceeding while the order remains in effect. The Executive Order also makes clear that Sheriffs, court officers, and their agents are prohibited from taking action to remove individuals from residential properties through the eviction or foreclosure processes for at least the next two months. The full Order is at <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-106.pdf>

Finally, the Township has received a number of inquiries about various types of businesses and whether they are allowed to remain open in compliance with Governor Murphy's directives. Our Police Department and Code Enforcement have visited a number of locations and recommended their closure. Most have been agreeable and complied. Please visit this [link](#) for guidance on which types of establishments may remain open. Also, the State of NJ is accepting complaints directly by visiting www.covid19/nj.gov/violation.

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.