



Township of Frelinghuysen
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April 3, 2020

Dear Frelinghuysen Resident:

On March 16, 2020 myself and the OEM, Nick Pachnos, signed a Proclamation of Local Disaster and Emergency in Frelinghuysen Township in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 18, 22 and 24 Original, and Amended and Supplemental Frelinghuysen Township Directives for Implementation of the Governor's Executive Orders 107, 108, Administrative Order 2020-4, and the Proclamation of Local Disaster and Emergency, were posted on the Township's website.

We have continued to work closely with the County of Warren, the Warren County Office of Emergency Management, the Warren County Department of Health, other municipalities, our state and Federal representatives, to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, as well as the provision of accurate information to the public through the Township's OEM's website, and periodically, as necessary, through the Township's website.

Although Town Hall remains closed to the public for the duration of the State of Emergency, all municipal services remain operational.

All Township meetings, with few exceptions, have been postponed indefinitely. However, pursuant to the directives of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, and Administrative Order 2020-4, the following Committees and Boards will proceed to have meetings, if needed, provided they can ensure that adequate social distancing can occur, proper notice is given, and where appropriate, applications are deemed complete: Township Committee, Land Use Board, and the Recreation Committee. Where appropriate these meetings will be conducted virtually and remotely, provided the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act can be complied with as directed by the Department of Community Affairs. Notice will be provided to the public in advance on how to access these meetings remotely.

The next Township Committee meeting is scheduled for April 22, where there will be a limited agenda. At this juncture, it is anticipated that the meeting will be conducted in a remote format, as opposed to a traditional meeting in Town Hall with the public present. Myself and the OEM will reevaluate the circumstances as those dates approach.

As an amendment to the prior policies, we are closing the playground behind Town Hall to public use. The use of the playground by children does not provide for adequate social distancing. Otherwise, all other Township outdoor parks and recreation facilities are open to the public provided the public adheres to proper social distancing of approximately six feet. Signs have been posted to remind you of this.

As of today, there is still only one confirmed COVID-19 case in Frelinghuysen Township, and 131 confirmed cases in Warren County. There will likely be more to come.

As President Trump indicated in one of his most recent news conferences, the next two weeks will likely be the toughest two weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Some experts estimate that the peak of the outbreak in New Jersey will be in approximately 8 to 14 days, followed by a slow reduction in cases through the first week in May. We can only hope these estimates are accurate. I refer you to the following website for some information on this estimate:

www.covid19.healthdata.org

Next week will be particularly difficult for some due to the fact that for some of us it is normally a week filled with church services or the beginning of the seven days of Passover Seders and observations, culminating for Christians on Easter Sunday, when those of us who are observant will be precluded from attending holy mass or church services due to the crisis.

I wish everyone in the Township well.

Christopher Stracco, Mayor