

Township of Frelinghuysen 210 Main Street Johnsonburg, NJ 07825 **Phone:** (908) 852-4121

Fax: (908) 852-7621 clerk@frelinghuysen-nj.us

March 30, 2020

Dear Frelinghuysen Residents:

On Friday, March 27, 2020, the Township recorded its first diagnosed case of COVID-19. The Township is not provided with any private information about the case as it would violate the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPA), and even if we were provided with the information, we could not legally release that information to the general public under the Act. The County Board of Health investigates each case. There is nothing for the Township to do on a local level. That being said, the one case identified in Frelinghuysen should not give anyone comfort. It is widely acknowledged that there has been "community spread" of COVID-19, and some people exhibit few, if any symptoms, or are non-symptomatic. Therefore, it is also widely acknowledged that the percentage of persons who can convey the virus to others is likely much higher than the test results would suggest. Everyone should still practice social distancing and appropriate sanitary procedures as recommended by the experts. Additional information regarding COVID-19 can be found on the OEM Facebook page which is the repository of all COVID-19 information for the Township, the NJ State website which can be accessed through the portal at the bottom of the Township website, and the CDC website, https://www.coronavirus.gov/. The Warren County website, www.co.warren.ni.us is also a great source for COVID-19 information.

Our Township is ahead of the game in connection with our budgeting process. Therefore, we will likely finalize the budget process at a Township Committee meeting expected to take place in late April, which will be appropriately noticed in advance. Between now and then, as has been the case, the Township Committee, the OEM, the Clerk and Township employees have been fully engaged and I thank them for their hard work and dedication under these trying circumstances. The conditions set forth in the previous policies regarding the State of Emergency Proclamation in the Township will remain in effect until further notice likely to coincide with the duration of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Murphy.

Thank you,

Christopher Stracco, Mayor