

Mayor's Update on Coronavirus – Monday, April 6, 2020

Good afternoon to all our residents....

I would like to give a quick update on the coronavirus impacts and the continued “shelter in place” order that is in effect now through April 30th. As of yesterday, we have 36 confirmed cases in town and thankfully no deaths have been reported.

However, **our case count in Manville is still increasing and that is a major concern for our residents.**

Our country has not faced a public health threat like COVID -19 in over 100 years. With the increasing number of countries still being affected daily, it is clear this pandemic is still gaining momentum across the globe, **so it is very important to practice the social distancing rules President Trump has put in place to help stop community spread here at home.**

I have been on daily conference calls with Freeholder Director Shanel Robinson, Mayors from all 21 towns in Somerset County, our elected officials from Trenton and our county health director Dr. Reddy. We have taken many steps to assure transparency during this time by using our emergency messaging system Nixle, posting on social media and our web site to keep everyone informed of the latest restrictions and cases.

And we will continue to do so. **I would like to personally thank Somerset County Freeholders and our OEM coordinator John Bentz for their leadership and efforts to help keep us safe and well informed during this on-going state of emergency.**

It does no one any good to soften the reality of what we are confronting as we fight this virus. The death total in Somerset County is on the rise and all across our nation, it goes up daily. **To help stop the spread of this virus STAY HOME!** A curfew remains in effect beginning at 8 pm each night. We all need to help slow the spread of this virus because the virus doesn't move on its own, people move it. And one can be infected for days with no symptoms.

Staying home will protect both you and everyone you would otherwise come in contact with. If we all stay home as much as possible, we will greatly reduce the number of people getting sick and we will save lives.

So please stay home for your family and loved ones. Stay home for your friends. Stay home for our community so life can get back to normal as quickly as possible.

We all know there are certain people, **essential workers**, who must report to work. **We thank them for their dedication**, especially our police force, fire, and rescue squad volunteers, our doctors and nurses on the front lines, our DPW workers and Borough

employees, and the cashiers at our supermarkets. By staying home and only going out for essential items, it helps keep them as safe as possible as they go about their duties to serve us.

We all know what our government is asking us to do isn't easy, but we are all in this together. Our lives will be back to normal sooner than later if we all do our part taking our individual responsibility seriously and adhere to all preventative measures. **Please wash your hands often and stay 6 feet apart when out in public and wear a mask to help protect others.**

The state's budget deadline has also been extended to September from June which will impact the delivery of new tax bills in August. There are still lots of unanswered questions concerning tax payments due in May. As we receive more information in the days ahead, it will be posted on our website. **And if you haven't done so already, please sign up for Nixle alerts from our police department and Manville OEM.**

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter. Enjoy the warmer weather as I have seen many residents walking in my neighborhood for exercise. These are challenging times, but I am confident as Americans, we will defeat this virus. Let's all do our part

Mayor Richard M. Onderko