

March 25, 2020

Office of Emergency Management
Office of the Mayor

Subject: Coronavirus Update 4

Dear Citizen:

Please take a moment to read this updated correspondence as it contains important information about Gibbsboro's response to the threat of the spread of COVID-19. To our knowledge, there is no specific issue in Gibbsboro. However, the health and safety of our residents and staff remains our top priority. We are in regular contact with the County and State Health Departments, Gibbsboro Police, Gibbsboro Schools, the Eastern Regional School District and our Emergency Management Committee. We have been working together to monitor this evolving situation and as the situation matures, we will provide additional updates.

- The State of New Jersey currently has 2,844 positive cases of COVID-19 and at least 21 deaths related to COVID-19: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>
- The New Jersey Department of Health today **ORDERED ALL** Camden County Adult Day Care Health Services Facilities to close.

Major direction from the Governor's Office for the entire State of New Jersey:

- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 107 which directs all residents to stay at home until further notice. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-107.pdf>
- Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 108 which invalidates any county or municipal restriction that in any way will or might conflict with any of the provisions of Executive Order No. 107 with limited exceptions. (Local Gibbsboro actions are consisted with or permitted by EO 108.)
<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-108.pdf>
- Day care facilities remain open.
- All elections in New Jersey are postponed until May 12.

Additional information:

- Affected employees are urged to visit nj.gov/labor for comprehensive info from New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage due to unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/coronavirus--covid-19--and-blood-donation.html>
- New Jersey American Water has agreed to suspend all shut-offs during the outbreak.

Camden County:

There are 41 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Camden County. Thirteen individuals have been hospitalized with eight remaining in the hospital. Five cases are serious. Camden County has declared a County-wide emergency and is working with our local emergency officials to ensure consistent policies are put into effect. A website with relevant state and county information is being maintained at <https://www.camdencounty.com/freeholder-board-declares-state-of-emergency-in-camden-county/>.

- **COVID-19 Testing:** The County has established a **drive-through** coronavirus testing station at the Camden County College campus in Blackwood. **Unfortunately, it lacks test kits.** The Virtua hospital system and Cooper are now capable of performing COVID-19 tests. All local testing facilities are being hampered by the absence of test kits and test components. First responders are top priority for testing.
- **Senior Centers and Meals:** All county-operated and congregate senior center sites have been closed as of 5 p.m. March 16. All senior citizens enrolled in the Camden County Nutrition Program are receiving home-delivery of meals. In light of broad closures among businesses and restaurants, as well as long lines and limited supply at supermarkets, the Division of Senior and Disabled Services is prepared to provide meals to any senior in need in Camden County, regardless of prior registration. To request assistance, residents should contact the Division at **(856) 374-MEAL or (856) 858-3220.**
- All branches of the Camden County Library System are closed until April 13. Online resources and streaming services will be provided free to all residents during this time. For more information, visit camdencountylibrary.org/.
- Residents should only call 9-1-1 for emergencies. For those with questions or concerns related to the novel coronavirus, call the free, 24-hour public hotline at 1-800-222-1222 or 1-800-962-1253 where trained professionals are standing by to answer your questions.

Gibbsboro:

Superfund

- Superfund activities will continue for the near term. Sherwin-Williams team will be resuming tree clearing operations at the Borough-owned Route 561 Dump Site over the next few weeks. This work will be performed in anticipation of remediation activities beginning on the property in late April or early May. We expect to complete remediation activities at the Continental Plaza in mid-April, followed by restoration activities. Various activities will take place on both the Plaza and the Dump Site over the next several weeks to keep the project moving forward.
- We are expecting guidance this week on continuing operations. Severson, Sherwin-Williams' prime contractor that is implementing most remedial actions, has taken steps to protect their workers and the general public. Continued work this spring on commercial, woodland properties and stream corridors, and residential properties in Gibbsboro and Voorhees will largely depend on the ability of US EPA, NJ DEP, and Army Corps of Engineers to provide required on-site oversight of activities.

Protecting the health and safety of our residents is our top priority. The following direction remains in force:

- All emergency services (police, fire and ambulance squad) remain on duty. Call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency and 856-783-4900 for non-emergency issues. If you go to police headquarters for a non-emergency, use the phone outside the door and an officer will respond and speak with you. All requests for fingerprints for a volunteer organization are suspended until further notice.
- Both Eastern High School and the Gibbsboro Elementary School have been closed. Information on the status of each school will appear on their respective websites.
- The Municipal Building will be closed to the public until at least March 30th when we will again evaluate the situation. We intend to provide many of the services that you have come to expect and have taken measures to target safety and sanitary practices as they directly relate to overall risk. Employees will be in the office on an as-needed basis.
- The Construction Office and Fire Official's Offices will be monitoring requests remotely. Inspections will be on a case by case basis. In general, inspectors will NOT be entering private residences while the stay home order is in effect. Emergency repairs can be undertaken by a licensed contractor who should produce an affidavit certifying the work has been performed in accordance with construction codes. Permits and inspections still are required but can be applied for and issued after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- Marriage Licenses & Death Certificates will be available by appointment only at 856-783-6655, ext. 105. All other services will be limited. Tax and sewer payments should be mailed to Borough Hall or may be made online via the Borough's website: www.gibbsborotownhall.com.
- All playgrounds, including the playground and basketball court at Gibbsboro School, are closed.

- All activities at Cricket Field, including league play and practices, are cancelled through March.
- The Gibbsboro Community Garden is closed through March.
- The Gibbsboro Library will be closed and all scheduled library programs are cancelled through March.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt, scheduled for April 4, is cancelled.
- The Gibbsboro Senior Center is closed and we are not accepting rentals for any events scheduled through April.
- The Gibbsboro Trail System is also closed. We will be taking action over the next few days to secure entrances and post notices.
- Gibbsboro Municipal Court is cancelled through March.
- There are no changes in trash and recycling collection.
- We will be reviewing all scheduled public meetings, including Borough Council, to determine whether they are necessary for the continuation of governmental operations.

The best way to prevent the spread and contraction of Coronavirus is practicing good personal hygiene:

- Wash your hands thoroughly, and often, with soap and water for 20 seconds;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay home when you're sick;
- Avoid contact with others who are sick;
- Put distance between yourself and other people. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. If possible, maintain social distancing, at least six (6) feet distance between yourself and another person.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue; and
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

This has been a frightening and stressful time for many of us here in Gibbsboro and throughout the world. Please remember to take care of yourself and those in your family, both physically and mentally, and to reach out to friends, neighbors, clergy or mental health professionals for emotional support.

Please stay safe and continue to monitor the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> or call the State Department of 24-hour public hotline – 800-222-1222. Additional resources:

- NJ DOH COVID-19 homepage: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- NJ DOH Social Distancing: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID-19-SocialDistancing.pdf>
- CDC COVID-19, knowing the symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

- CDC COVID-19, steps to prevent illness: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html)

We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation under these difficult circumstances. Take a moment to check on those that you know are most vulnerable, such as the sick or elderly, to ensure their health. Complete adherence to the recommendations from health officials is paramount to protecting your health and that of your loved ones.

Respectfully,

Ed Campbell
Mayor

Mike Kelly
Emergency Management Coordinator