



# TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

COUNTY OF MORRIS

GILLETTE, HOMESTEAD PARK, MEYERSVILLE, MILLINGTON, STIRLING

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## **Following is the transcript of the Mayor Rae's Public Service Announcement March 24th, 12:25 PM**

This is Brendan Rae, Mayor of Long Hill Township on March 24th with an important Public Service Announcement.

COVID-19 is being battled on many fronts both globally and nationally and I would like to tell you a little about what we're doing here at the local level in Long Hill.

About 2 weeks ago, we officially formed the COVID-19 Task Force with representatives from police, fire, emergency squad, school district, OEM, Public Health, Township government, and Administration as well as ad hoc membership from the Chamber of Commerce and other groups as needed. Members are in contact daily via Task Force updates and subgroup meetings but we meet as a team every Monday via videoconference to review the progress and identify upcoming challenges.

I am happy to report that we've made a lot of progress in the short time we've been together. Some highlights - we have:

- Centralized all supplies of Personal Protective Equipment available in the Township and laid out procedures for distribution on an as needed basis as well as for the rapid acquisition of additional supplies when and as they become available. For example, on Sunday evening, through the efforts of Task Force members, we were able to identify and acquire much needed eye safety equipment. Rest assured, we have measures in place to share excess inventory with our local hospitals;
- Agreed on contingency plans to address the "what if" scenarios utilizing other resources from the county, state and federal levels;
- Instituted new guidelines for first responders to maximize their protection, thereby maintaining operational readiness and capabilities for as long as possible; and
- Established communication lines with you, as you saw with the announcement of the COVID-19 hotline at 908 647 8000 X 995 to identify the needs of our most vulnerable residents and connect them with volunteer groups within the Township so that they can remain, as much as possible, safe in their homes.

Over the course of this crisis you will see differences in the way first responders deal with emergencies. Don't worry, it's the same stellar service in terms of response time and

care. However, on all calls they will most probably be wearing masks and other personal protective equipment as they take 100% precautions to avoid even the slightest potential of exposure.

Also, as always please remember to visit the COVID-19 page of the Township website at [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov). We will continually strive to bring you the most relevant news from trusted and vetted sources in the best way possible throughout this Emergency.

The Township's business continues with as little interruption as possible. Even before Governor Murphy's stay at home order on Saturday, we had already made the necessary provisions to have all our employees work remotely. Even though they're at home, you can still contact township employees by email and talk by phone during normal business hours.

On the subject of Township business, we will hold our first remote Township Committee meeting tomorrow, Wednesday March 25th. It will, of course, be open to the public. The meeting will start at 7.30 pm as usual. However, phone lines will open at 7.15 pm. Dial-in instructions can be found on the Township website at [www.longhillnj.gov](http://www.longhillnj.gov) and on LHTV.

This Emergency will end. As I've said before the timing is entirely in our hands. I urge you to continue to strictly follow and demand that others strictly follow, the social distancing and good hygiene recommendations of the CDC. Please, please keep your social interactions to the smallest numbers possible. Physical distance is social solidarity.

In the coming weeks we know that we will see a steady and large increase in the number of confirmed cases here in Long Hill, in the State, nationally, and globally. But we know from other countries that the recommended measures will bear fruit. Just last night I was talking to a company based in Shenzhen, China by videoconference. The colleagues were still wearing surgical masks as a precautionary measure but they told me the restaurants had opened, they could move about normally, and that life was returning to the way it had been before the pandemic. Also, Bloomberg reported this morning that the Chinese government will allow people to leave the city of Wuhan and Hubei province, the epicenter of the pandemic, effective April 8th. This is following the report by Hubei on March 19th that new infections had dropped to zero. If we strictly follow the recommendations, there is light at the end of this dark tunnel we find ourselves in.

Stay safe and healthy and continue looking out for each other and the community.