



TOWNSHIP OF LONG HILL

COUNTY OF MORRIS

GILLETTE, HOMESTEAD PARK, MEYERSVILLE, MILLINGTON, STIRLING

TOWNSHIP OFFICES:
915 Valley Road
Gillette, NJ 07933
(908)647-8000
FAX (908) 647-4150

This is Brendan P. Rae, Mayor of Long Hill Township on Thursday November 12th with an important Public Service Announcement.

Every day over the past number of months we have been greeted with the grim news of the increasing number of COVID-19 infections globally, nationally and locally. Yesterday, a new high of 144,305 cases was recorded in the United States and this marked the eighth day in a row of over 100,000 new cases per day. Locally, here in Long Hill Township and in the surrounding towns, the number of infections is surging. We're not quite yet in the middle of November and case numbers are already near what we saw during the whole month of October. At this point, I don't believe that any of us don't know someone who has been infected or is quarantining as a result of a contact.

Not all the news is bad, however. Doctors and hospitals have become more adept at treating the disease. Although there is no cure, drugs like the antiviral, Remdesivir, and the steroid, dexamethasone, have been found to be effective in limiting its severity; and just this week, promising data on the efficacy of a new vaccine candidate was released by Pfizer. There is now optimism that a number of safe and effective vaccines may become available this year and into the beginning of 2021. As uplifting as this news may be, we have to face the reality that because manufacturing and deployment of any vaccine will take an extended period of time, COVID-19 will be part of our lives for the foreseeable future.

Fortunately, the best weapon currently available to combat the disease is within our control. Please adhere to the strictest standards of good hygiene, wear masks properly and practice physical distancing even if masked. Avoid the three Cs – crowded spaces with people nearby; close contact settings, especially where there are close range conversations; and confined and enclosed spaces, especially those with poor ventilation. As we enter the Holiday season, we have to be especially vigilant not to let our guard down and particularly cognizant of the risks of transmission. As painful as it is to not gather with family and friends as we have become accustomed at this time of year, we must remember that COVID-19 is still a potentially deadly disease, especially in the elderly and those with underlying conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Our sacrifice and care can literally save the lives of our friends, loved ones, and strangers.

Here in Long Hill Township, we will not be holding the Meyersville Tree Lighting ceremony, an event, that has long been a staple of our Holiday celebrations. Instead, as a Township we are focusing on those Holiday events that can be conducted safely. For example, the Recreation Department is organizing a number of family-oriented activities; and, although masked and socially distanced, Santa Claus will still be delivering presents with the help of our fire companies. As always, if you are elderly or a member of an at-risk group and require assistance with shopping or picking up medicines, please call our Hotline at (908) 647 8000 Extension 995.

The Long Hill Township COVID-19 Taskforce has been holding regular meetings throughout this pandemic and is continuing to monitor the situation locally as well as to work with our partners at the County and State to support our residents.

In this regard, I would like to make you aware of 2 important initiatives aimed at slowing the transmission of the disease. Morris County will soon be making at home COVID-19 tests available to all residents and standing up mobile testing units in cooperation with local health authorities, particularly in areas where outbreaks are being detected. And please be sure to download COVID Alert NJ to make your phone a weapon in the fight against the disease. The app is free and secure and anonymously alerts users if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. Importantly, unlike just about every other app on our phone, COVID Alert NJ never records any identifying data and ensures the anonymity of all users.

Full details on these as well as all other news please visit the COVID page of the Long Hill Township website at www.longhillnj.gov.

Experts warn of the dark days that lie ahead in this pandemic but I like to think that each of us can bring at least a ray of light and hope to those around us by our thoughtful actions and caring deeds.

Stay safe and healthy and, above all, find ways to stay safely connected.

Brendan P. Rae
Mayor
Long Hill Township