

April 11, 2020

As of Friday, April 10th, Bergen County reports a total of 8928 cases, with 473 new presumptive positive cases, with a total of 390 Covid-19 related deaths. Those lost are beloved fathers, mothers, grandparents, sisters, brothers, neighbors and friends. We mourn each and every one. Our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.

Upper Saddle River currently has 46 reported cases. The State and County reporting systems are working diligently to get this information to us as quickly and accurately as possible, but there are discrepancies and occasionally a time lag.

I must thank the Upper Saddle River Volunteer Ambulance Corps and our Police Department. They are on the front lines and responding to an unusually high volume of calls. Ted Preusch, Borough Administrator and our Office of Emergency Manager, has been working tirelessly behind the scenes. Our Dept of Public Works is also working to disinfect and keep our facilities decontaminated. They are all doing an amazing job and we are very fortunate to have such a team.

Our volunteer EMS are ready to respond when we need them. Faced with the current coronavirus pandemic, not only are they responding to many more calls than usual, but they are also being ultra-careful for everyone's health and safety. More calls, coupled with the extremely contagious nature of this virus, mean more protective equipment is needed. And that equipment, under these circumstances, is hard to find and costly. If you can, please help our ambulance corps by making a donation. They are always here for us. Let's be there for them. Checks can be sent to USR Volunteer Ambulance Corps, 378 West Saddle River Road, or on-line at [https://www.usrems.org/donate?fbclid=IwAR0ckDQQNgvTkY\\_wGOGUSpzIbBprJcHt6xGy462KNNE-AVIHLpEIn8NIQAw](https://www.usrems.org/donate?fbclid=IwAR0ckDQQNgvTkY_wGOGUSpzIbBprJcHt6xGy462KNNE-AVIHLpEIn8NIQAw)

Thank you to our amazing community organizations and residents that have put themselves forward to assist our hospitals, emergency responders and neighbors in need. There has been an outpouring of offers to help in any way we need and, to me, that is the shining light in the middle of so much darkness.

USR Cares is there to assist residents in crisis as always. Please message them on Facebook, at USR Cares, if you want to help or need something. If you can't reach them, please e-mail me at [jminichetti@usrtoday.org](mailto:jminichetti@usrtoday.org).

The USRA Coalition has launched a new social media campaign to help with anxiety, co-occurring disorders and mental health. Please follow USRA Coalition on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for resources and information. A mental health newsletter is in production and will be mailed to everyone soon.

I wish you all a socially distanced but happy Passover and Easter. Please celebrate wisely. Although it's been seemingly forever, social distancing is working and new cases

are leveling off. We cannot let our guards down. Let's keep our eyes on the finish line – this is definitely a marathon, not a sprint.

Follow us for timely updates on Facebook at Borough of Upper Saddle River and Twitter at Upper Saddle River.

Be well,

Joanne Minichetti