

Coronavirus Update March 15, 2020:

A Message from Mayor Joanne Minichetti

As hospitals, health professionals and government officials rush to open testing sites, prepare medical equipment and hospital beds, the public is being asked to do their share. You've heard the term before – social distancing. The concept is to limit interaction with others as much as possible. Schools, colleges, movie theaters, sports and museums are closed for this purpose. Today I ordered all playgrounds to be closed as of Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Parks remain open unless we find large groups assembling and then we may have to close them entirely. Many people have been asked to work from home by their employers, municipal courts have been postponed and local government asked to limit meetings. Governor Murphy announced today that a state-wide curfew is being weighed.

Coronavirus is here in Bergen County and spreading. Many who become ill will not suffer seriously, but some will. Currently, confirmed cases in NJ range in ages from 18 to 80. We need to limit cases to not overwhelm our medical professionals and facilities. ***I know how incredibly difficult this is – but we all need to stay at home.*** This is likely the hardest for our teens and young adults who have been cut off from their usual activities and social lives. They are grappling to understand why long-awaited spring break trips and graduation activities have been cancelled and semesters abroad postponed. Parents are trying to explain the gravity and we all realize it's not easy.

I am imploring our residents, of all ages, to stay at home and interact with their friends via digital means only. This is all we as residents can do to help contain the spread of this virus. Let's work together and do our part to keep ourselves, our family members and our neighbors healthy. I will continue to update the community as information becomes available.