

April 18, 2020

As of Friday, April 17th, NJ had 78,467 reported cases of Coronavirus, including 3,250 new cases disclosed Friday. Sadly, 3,840 NJ residents have lost their lives to the virus, with 323 reported on Friday. Bergen County remains the hardest hit county with 11,863 reported cases with 714 deaths. Nursing homes and assisted living facilities are unfortunately seeing a tremendous amount of illness, with a disproportionate number of deaths. On a personal note, we lost my step-father on Monday morning. He was 97 and lived in a nursing home near my brother in Pennsylvania.

Upper Saddle River currently has 49 confirmed cases, and, regrettably, 2 deaths. Our condolences go to their families and loved ones. Again, I thank everyone who has followed the social distancing orders. As difficult as this is, we are saving lives. Governor Murphy extended school closures until May 15th and state and county parks remain closed. At this point, we are all starting to forget what day it is and wonder if this will ever end. It is critical, however, that we do not give up or become discouraged.

Because, yes, there is some positive news. Hospitals are reporting the discharging of patients who had been critically ill, including those who had been in the ICU and on ventilators. Englewood Health recently celebrated the 500th patient discharged. Testing is becoming more available. And as desperately short-handed as hospitals, police and EMS were with PPE, critically needed supplies are becoming more available.

As we look towards a flattening of the curve, we must continue to social distance. Staying at home has gotten us to this point and is still necessary.

According to the national plan to reopen the following criteria must be in place:

- A downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period is identified.
- Hospitals are able to treat patients without crisis care.
- An adequate testing program is in place for residents and health care workers.
- Plentiful PPE for health care workers and workers in critical industries, including nursing homes is available.
- Plentiful critical medical equipment and ICU beds are available to handle a surge in need.
- Employees and users of mass transit are protected.

It will be up to Governor Murphy to identify when we can loosen up some of the restrictions in place. Let's all be part of the solution and, with our sacrifices, get to the finish line sooner rather than later.

Again, I want to thank everyone who has pitched in to help our area hospitals, ambulance volunteers, police department, senior citizens and families in need. Our community

organizations, PTO, Girl Scouts, USR Cares and individual residents have shown us all what community really means.

Please continue to be safe, be well and stay home.

Mayor Joanne Minichetti