

Mayor's Update March 9, 2020 COVID-19

I would like to share with the community some of the steps the Township is taking in response to Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. We understand that there is concern and we would like to assure you that we have been preparing for weeks for the potential that we may see cases close to home. The Township has assembled a response team to coordinate our efforts. This team is composed of our health officer, chief of police, director of emergency services, business administration, township clerk, myself and several key staff members. This is a multi-faceted response and the situation evolves quickly. At this time, we do not have confirmed cases in West Windsor Township or Mercer County and risk of illness to the general public remains low.

Some of the key considerations of our planning team include:

1. Ensuring our public health team, first responders and key stakeholders are equipped to respond to this emergency.
2. Re-affirming procedures to ensure physicians and healthcare facilities have emergency contact to our Health Officer, Public Health Nurse, and health staff 24/7 through our Police Dispatch.
3. Establishing open lines of communications with community stakeholders.
 - For example, the HO and the Superintendent are in daily communications. Last Friday they also coordinated a round table discussion of their professional peers from across the county which met at the WWP BOE offices to discuss school-related public health concerns last Friday.
 - Health staff members have connected with all Long-term Care Facilities in town to ensure they are implementing recommended guidance to protect those in their care.
 - Outreach has also been shared with medical providers, child care centers and faith-based organizations.
4. Ensuring communication of reliable information on our website through links to the CDC and NJDOH to assist families and business with access to trusted materials.
5. Business Administrator and Township Clerk are working everyday with key staff members to ensure our facilities are safe and to plan for continuity of operations so we can continue to serve the community.

As we know, diseases don't recognize municipal boundaries and it is important that our actions are coordinated and align with the recommendations and protocols established by our state and federal officials. The most important things the public can do at this time is to stay home when you are ill, practice good hygiene, and if you are sick – call your doctor prior to visiting. Everyone working together as a team can help to slow the spread of the disease and protect members of our community that are most vulnerable to illness.