

Message from the Mayor

New case brings Township's total to 8

As of Saturday, March 28, 2020, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Chatham Township stands at 8, following the addition of 1 new case on Friday and 0 new cases on Saturday.

Chatham Township residents who are avoiding all unnecessary trips out of the home – and who are following good social distancing practices when they do -- deserve the community's sincere appreciation for limiting the potential for transmission of the coronavirus whenever possible.

By limiting trips, practicing social distancing, and washing hands frequently, Chatham Township residents are taking control of risks to their own health wherever possible, and more importantly limiting the threat of exposure to neighbors, friends and family members who may be at greater risk due to age or underlying health issues.

Health officials have repeatedly reminded us that the number of new confirmed cases is not an accurate count of the presence of the coronavirus in a community. As testing sites increase, more confirmed cases will be added to the list. Also, an unknown number of people with minor symptoms are believed to contact their personal physicians and are advised to voluntarily quarantine themselves and never get tested.

These Messages from the Mayor will update the number of confirmed new cases in Chatham Township several times a week, but will not attempt to update the number daily. The important message is that anyone could be carrying the coronavirus and not yet be displaying symptoms. We all should behave in a way that protects others and ourselves from the potential of transmission. A narrow focus on an inaccurate number of confirmed new cases in a community just gets in the way of this primary message.

A new development this week was that the Township tennis courts were closed as of Thursday. This was done at the instruction of Morris County Health Officials under the Governor's Executive Order which was clarified this week to allow parks to remain open but ordered the closure of all park facilities including playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts and paddle tennis courts.

On the subject of testing, Morris County, in coordination with Atlantic Health System, will open a COVID-19 drive-thru testing center for Morris County residents only, located at the County College of Morris in Randolph starting on Monday, March 30. Registration will begin on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Only Morris County residents who have a prescription from a doctor and have pre-scheduled an appointment for testing through the county's COVID-19 appointment's portal will be allowed to enter the testing site.

Expanded instructions are printed separately on the Chatham Township website. For information and to make an appointment (starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday), residents should visit <https://health.morriscountynj.gov/COVIDTesting>

Again, our sincere thanks to all the Chatham Township residents who are taking thoughtful steps to protect themselves and others by limiting trips from their homes, practicing safe social distancing when they do, and who are washing their hands frequently. Please continue to exercise Best wishes for the good health of all.

Michael Kelly

Chatham Township Mayor