



March 22, 2020

Re: IMPORTANT PORT WASHINGTON NORTH COVID-19 EMERGENCY UPDATE

Dear Village of Port Washington North Families & Community Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide our community with an update regarding the Village's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our residents, employees, and first responders is and will always be our top priority. As such, I have been in continuous contact with the Port Washington Police District, Port Washington Fire Department, our New York State delegation, Nassau County, Town of North Hempstead, Mayors from the surrounding area, and of course, our Village of Port Washington North Trustees and Emergency Management Commissioner. We are all working together to ensure that our Village remains healthy, strong and secure.

Current Status:

It is of the utmost importance that we all heed the advice of medical professionals and avoid crowds and gatherings of any size. Please seek to quarantine yourself within your home, whenever possible. If you feel ill, remain in your home until you have contacted your doctor or hospital. If you or anyone you know has additional questions or concerns, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or call New York State Coronavirus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 where callers can speak to an actual medical expert. You can also with questions or concerns regarding travel and symptoms.

Social Distancing Is Key to Limiting the Spread of COVID-19

The Board of Trustees and I cannot express how proud and gratified we are regarding how our Village has stepped up to address this health emergency. I cannot recall the last time I've seen so many adults and children playing in their driveways and biking along our streets. Please exercise caution when driving through our streets given the increase in pedestrian activities around the Village. With that said, I am urging every resident to engage in social distancing, with no exceptions. When we talk about social distancing, that means everyone, everywhere. There have been instances of people here in our community, adults, children, and everyone in between – who have been going out and playing sports or sitting and eating at tables in parks in close proximity to one another. **THIS IS DANGEROUS FOR EVERYONE.** We need to be socially responsible. It's not only important for us individually; it's important for the health of the entire community. If we allow our children to play together in a park, for instance, and just one of them is carrying this virus, each one of those children could end up bringing the virus home to their parents and grandparents. We can't take chances like this. At this point, outdoor exercise must be a solitary recreational activity as we must keep space between ourselves and others. The CDC clearly states that staying at least six feet away from other people greatly lessens our chances of catching and spreading COVID-19. Parents, please relay this message to your children. To do our part, the Village has restricted access to all tables at the Bay Walk Park. While you can walk throughout the park and take rests on benches, we are discouraging anyone from being in close proximity with one another.

Village Hall and Board Meeting Notice:

The Village Hall is currently closed to the public. If you need to come to Village Hall for permits, services, or assistance, please call ahead or attempt to speak with department staff over the phone instead of a visit (516-883-5900). Many Village functions can be found and completed on our website, as opposed to in person. While we understand that residents may be temporarily inconvenienced by these changes, our top priority is ensuring that each member of this community remains safe and healthy during this time.

We will be conducting the March 25th monthly board meeting by video conference. The meeting agenda will solely consist of approving abstracts and monthly budget reports and the hiring of temporary office staff to provide minimal essential services to the village. All other agenda items for the March 25th meeting will be carried over to the April 22nd meeting. The likelihood of that meeting taking place will be determined in the coming weeks and will be done by video conference as well. Until further notice, no other meetings will be taking place, including Village Court. Visit our website for additional information: www.portwashingtonnorth.org

P.W. Water District Water Main Project Underway

Residents may have noticed some road construction going on in our Village. The P.W. Water District has started a, long awaited, project to replace some of our failing water mains along sections of Soundview Drive, Steamboat Drive, and Driftwood Drive. There is also mobilization of equipment along Waterview Drive and Fishermans Drive. The result will be fewer water main breaks and less disruption of water service. This project, announced in our Winter Newsletter, is planned to run through July. The homeowners that are directly affected by road construction were personally notified by the contractor, Bankers Construction. The Village is still in constant contact with the road crews and engineers to ensure the least amount of disruption to our residents. If you have any issues, please reach out to the contractor's representative, Tracy Burgess Levy at 516-524-4422 and she will do everything possible to assist you.

Senior Resident Outreach for Food Shopping

The Town of North Hempstead's senior Project Independence food shopping transportation program will be expanding its hours. The added hours are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will assist those who are most vulnerable to the virus. Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth has stated that North Hempstead and their Department of Services for the Aging and the Project Independence team understands how incredibly difficult these times can be, especially for our seniors and are proud to offer these extended hours to help our residents go food shopping and take advantage of when grocery stores are less crowded. The new extended hours will be from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Project Independence members will be picked up individually. Residents are advised to make earlier appointments and take advantage of stores' early special hours for seniors. Residents can call 311 or 516-869-6311, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., to make an appointment. Please be advised the extended hours are subject to change. Continue to check the Town's website or www.northhempsteadny.gov/coronavirus for the latest updates.

Town of North Hempstead Parks Closures

All playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, and the Town dog run are closed.

- Bathrooms will remain open daily from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except for Manhasset Valley, Ridders Pond, and Meril-lon Ballfield which will remain closed).
- As of Monday, March 23, the Port Washington Town Dock parking lot will be closed to vehicles by 8pm.
- Town parks will remain open for passive use only. Gatherings are restricted.

P.W. Business Improvement District and Chamber of Commerce Local Business Recommendations:

The Greater Port Washington Business Improvement District and the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce are working together to help businesses during this difficult time. While they have much less control of the virus, they have suggested ideas for coping during our temporary "social distancing" period:

- **SHOP LOCAL!** - Shop local to the greatest extent possible! Merchants have been dealt a significant blow and need everyone's help in making it through
- **Access On-line Orders Through Local Merchant** - If possible, where inventory is not available in the local store, make an attempt to order through the local store and have them bring the item in through their larger network versus going to a "big box" store.
- **"Pay it Forward"** purchases you will make in the future now by buying gift certificates, providing the merchants cash immediately to offset their large decline in immediate revenue.
- **Curbside and Home Delivery** - Ask your local retailer, restaurant or other business for either
- **Use Local Taxis** - Use one of the local taxis for delivery if the merchant is unable to delivery directly.

2020 Census:

We want to remind you of the importance of responding to the 2020 census. Before the end of the month, every household on Long Island should receive a letter inviting us to fill out a form. We need to make every effort to count as many people as possible in the Village of Port Washington North, the Town of North Hempstead, and across Long Island, to ensure we receive the proper federal funding for our community. So please respond either online, by mail, or over the phone when you receive the mailer.

Expired Drivers Licenses Relief:

Governor Cuomo signed an executive order to give relief to individuals whose driver's license or vehicle registration expired after March 1 to minimize to worry about renewing them during the crisis. If your license or registration expired after March 1, 2020, you will not be penalized for not renewing until this order is lifted, and it will be in place for the duration of this crisis.

Take Everyday Precautions:

- Clean your hands often for at least 20 seconds.
- Clean surfaces often with approved disinfectants.
- Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
- Avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places.
- Put distance between yourself and other people to reduce your risk of being exposed to virus.

Protect Our First Responders:

We are asking for your cooperation in following these simple precautions during the COVID-19 outbreak:

- If you are quarantined (mandatory or self-imposed) in your home due to possible or confirmed COVID-19 exposure, we ask that you fully inform the 911 operator of your situation.
- Furthermore, we ask that you place a sign/note on your front door to alert our First Responders to take infection-prevention precautions before entering your home or business.

Important Phone Numbers:

Our Town Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte was kind enough to provide us with a list of important links and phone numbers for reach out and staying informed:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

NEW YORK STATE:

New York State – COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Hotline 888-364-3065

New York State - Department of Health:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home?mc_cid=f144cc5233&mc_eid=0a475063af

NASSAU COUNTY:

Nassau County – COVID -19 (Coronavirus) Hotline – (516) 227-9570

Nassau County – COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Website:

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/4946/Coronavirus-COVID-19>

Nassau County - Mental Health Care & Support Services - 516-227-TALK (8255)

Nassau County - To report price gouging, please contact the Nassau County Department of Consumer Affairs at pricegouging@nassaucountyny.gov or call (516) 571-2600

TONH:

TONH - Sign up for TONH Emergency Alerts:

<https://www.northhempsteadny.gov/content/16255/20715/20719/default.aspx>

TONH - Sign up for TONH Electronic Newsletter:

https://my.sendinblue.com/users/subscribe/js_id/23q86/id/1

TONH - Sign up for Councilwoman Dalimonte's District 6 Newsletter:

<https://www.northhempsteadny.gov/content/16253/16764/31020/default.aspx#ccform>

TONH – Website - <https://www.northhempsteadny.gov/>

VILLAGE OF PORT WASHINGTON NORTH:

Port North Website – www.portwashingtonnorth.org

Mayor Bob's email – mayor@portwashingtonnorth.org

North Shore Alert signup to receive Port North newsletters and announcements:

www.northshorealert.org

Closing Thoughts:

The Village will continue to receive and relay regular updates as new information becomes available from the vast multi-agency communications network. The most up to date information may be found at the Village website.

My best to you all. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to email me directly at mayor@portwashingtonnorth.org. The Village Board and I are here for you during this difficult time in our lives.

Stay healthy and safe,

Mayor Bob