

## **MAYOR'S MESSAGE TO THE RESIDENTS OF UPPER TOWNSHIP**

As Mayor, I want to thank every resident of Upper Township for taking this unprecedented pandemic and the health emergency it has created seriously. The sacrifices you are making today by closing businesses, canceling gatherings and social distancing from those you love – are not in vain. These are selfless actions that we are all taking to slow the spread and flatten the curve of COVID 19 in Upper Township, Cape May County and across New Jersey.

As expected, the Cape May County Health Care system has been providing hospital care to patients testing positive for the novel coronavirus. We are working closely with local, County and state public health authorities as they follow their protocols for investigating and notifying any individuals who may have had exposure to an individual who tests positive.

I understand that it's natural to be nervous and want to be tested as a precaution, but it's not necessary. Not everyone needs to be tested. In order to preserve our supplies, personal protective equipment and the capacity to treat those who require hospitalization, we must limit testing to those highest at risk and those with symptoms. When we use those supplies for testing on those who are simply worried, it affects our ability to care for the patient who really needs it.

I want you to know that more than 80 percent of confirmed coronavirus cases are not severe. That means if you are experiencing mild symptoms that would not normally cause you to visit your doctor, you should simply stay home and self-quarantine. While there is no approved treatment for the virus, most people fully recover at home.

I would like to remind all our residents to continue to practice the CDC guidelines for protecting against contracting the COVID 19 virus. Such things as washing your hands frequently throughout the day with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, don't touch your face, mouth or eyes. If you wish to use rubber gloves and a mask when you go out in public do so. Practice social distancing of six feet or more between the next person. If you have no real reason to go out, STAY HOME unless going out is essential. And remember that those who have Heart disease, Diabetes or a compromised Immune System, please stay home and plan with family members or friends to run your errands or shop for you.

Today there were two Executive Orders issued by Governor Phil Murphy: that are especially noteworthy.

1. Executive Order 120 - Announces Postponement of June 2nd Primary Elections until July 7<sup>th</sup>
2. Executive Order 121 – The order is to Cease All Non-Essential Construction Projects and Imposes Additional Mitigation Requirements on Essential Retail Businesses and Industries to Limit the Spread of COVID-19.

For more information on the complete context of Governor's Executive Orders please go to [www.uppertownship.com](http://www.uppertownship.com). Click on the **CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) INFORMATION** link at the top of the page. Scroll to the LINKS section and click on NJ Executive Orders. This site automatically updates every time the Governor issues a subsequent order.

The history of our Township goes back centuries and just as lasting are our strong religious convictions throughout our community. Over those many years Upper Township has endured many triumphs and tribulations. The COVID 19 emergency has brought this community together in many ways to help one and other through these unpopular, inconvenient and uncertain times. With the Easter Holiday, Passover and Ramadan upon us, I invite you all to turn to your faith-based organizations and enjoy the celebration of the renewal of life and resurrection represented by this holiday. I ask that you celebrate these holy holidays together in thoughtful reflection but separately in physical presence. I offer you our website [www.uppertownship.com](http://www.uppertownship.com) where I have provided a list of local faith-based organizations and their individual websites to share in their many virtual holiday celebrations.

I ask you to continue to have faith in your local government, first responders, clergy, friends and family and we will get through this Pandemic together. I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday weekend.

Mayor Rich Palombo. RPh, DPh