



Daniel T. Spencer, Jr.
Mayor

March 16, 2020

Dear Resident,

Please take a moment to read this note as it contains important information about Gloucester City's response to the national health crisis related to COVID-19. On Monday, Governor Murphy declared a State of Emergency for the State of New Jersey. To our knowledge, there is no specific issue in our community now. However, the health and safety of our residents and staff remains our top priority. We have met and are in regular contact with the County and State Health Departments, Gloucester City Police, Gloucester City Schools, and our Emergency Management Committee, and we have been working together to monitor this evolving situation.

In Gloucester City, we are taking any potential risk to our community very seriously. Protecting health and safety of our residents is our top priority. Out of an abundance of caution, we are taking the following steps at this time to modify our usual services.

- The Municipal Building will be closed to the public until March 30th at which time, we will again evaluate the situation. We intend to provide all of the services that you have come to expect and have taken measures to target safety and sanitary practices as they directly relate to overall risk.
 - Vital statistics requests including Marriage Licenses and Death Certificates will be available by appointment at 856-456-0205, Ext. 203. All other services are limited at this point.
 - Tax and sewer payments should be mailed to: City of Gloucester, 512 Monmouth Street, Gloucester City, NJ 08030, or you can drop payments in the drop box at the front of the Municipal Building. Leave a check or money order (NO CASH PLEASE) in the drop box.
 - Dog and cat license renewals will be extended to May 30, 2020.
 - UDAG payments may be either be mailed or placed into the drop box.
 - Construction permit applications and inspection requests can be mailed.
- Our police department, fire department, and ambulance squad remain on duty. Call 911 in the event of an emergency and 856-456-0900 for non-emergency issues. Chief Morrell is actively working with the Mayor's office and our Emergency Management Committee to be sure we continue to provide public safety services at normal levels. We are also working to adapt those services as the situation evolves.
 - For the safety of our residents and our officers, the Gloucester City Police Department will be modifying their response to non-emergent calls for service. This will not impact the responding of officers to high priority, emergency incidents. Our supervisors will determine whether an officer's physical presence is needed to complete a report. Please advise the call taker if you or anyone is experiencing flu-like systems.
 - If you go to police headquarters for a non-emergency, use the phone outside the door and an officer will respond and speak with you. Non-confidential police reports can be taken through the records department window.
 - All requests for fingerprints for a volunteer organization are suspended until further notice.
- Municipal Court will be closed until further notice.
 - Payment of traffic tickets and fines can be paid online at www.njmcdirect.com.
 - Other violation payments can be mailed to 313 Monmouth Street, Gloucester City, NJ 08030.

512 Monmouth Street, Gloucester City, NJ 08030
(856) 456-0205 x 205
mayorspencer@cityofgloucester.org

- We will be reviewing all scheduled public meetings, including Council, to determine whether they are necessary for the continuation of governmental operations.
 - The Council meeting on March 26 is canceled.
 - The City Planning and Zoning Board meeting for March 18 is canceled.
- Trash pickup and the recycling pickup will continue as scheduled. Public Works remains open.
- The Gloucester City Library will be closed and all library programs will be postponed.
- The Community Center/Senior Center will be closed and not accepting rentals.
- All City committees and organized events through the end of April will be canceled. This includes the City Clean-up day/shred event, the Easter bunny hunt, the fishing derby and GreenGloucester Fair, as well as the Mayor's Wellness Campaign events.
- Residents are requested to refrain from using public parks and facilities to respect social distancing.

Gloucester City Schools have suspended operations. Information on the status of each school will appear on their respective websites.

The best way to prevent the spread and contraction of Coronavirus is practicing good personal hygiene:

- Wash your hands thoroughly, and often, with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid contact with others who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. Maintain social distancing, maintain at least 6 (six) feet distance between you and another person.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

This has been a frightening and stressful time for many of us here in Gloucester City and throughout the world. Please remember to take care of yourself and those in your family, both physically and mentally, and to reach out to friends, neighbors, clergy or mental health professionals for emotional support.

Please stay safe and continue to monitor Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> and the State Department of Health has established a 24-hour public hotline at 800-222-1222.

We truly appreciate everyone's cooperation under these difficult circumstances. Gloucester City has always come together during trying times with a commitment to each other, and comes out stronger on the other side. We expect nothing different this time around. We all need to be caring, compassionate, kind and supportive of one another at this time.

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and patience.

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