



November 17, 2020

Good afternoon. As we all know, COVID cases in Rutherford and across the nation have begun to climb at rates not seen since March and April. Governor Murphy has issued an Executive Order stating that effective today the indoor gathering limit will decrease from 25 to 10 people. The outdoor gathering limit will decrease from 500 people to 150 people, effective Monday, November 23 at 6:00 a.m.

The Rutherford Police Department will continue to respond to reports of violations of the Governor's Executive Order. Violations can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or up to 6 months in prison according to [this statute](#), Section App.A:9-49 - Violations as disorderly conduct; penalty; prosecution.

Additionally, the Governor has allowed municipalities and counties to impose additional restrictions on the hours of operation of non-essential businesses after 8:00 p.m. At this time, the Borough has no plans to exercise this right but we will closely monitor the COVID spike in town and base decisions on information gathered from contact tracing. It is critical for the health of our community that they cooperate with our Health Department. It is never acceptable to compound a problem by hindering the ability to break the chain of transmission, slow community spread and restart the economy by refusing to divulge information that can help our Health Department.

We continue to be in daily communication with Superintendent of Schools Hurley and the Board of Education regarding all COVID-related matters including the most recent Executive Order prohibiting the spectators at most indoor sporting events.

As we've tried to do throughout the year, the Borough is working on creative ways to celebrate the holiday season. While we will not be having a traditional holiday tree lighting or parade. Due to the overwhelming response from the community requesting events similar to what we had for Halloween, the Borough will host events as a virtual holiday kick-off, holiday house decorating contest and more. Contest prizes are made possible with a sponsorship from BCB Bank and supports our small businesses by purchasing gift certificates to local businesses during these difficult times.

We appreciate your cooperation with these updated guidelines. We understand that these are difficult and frustrating times. Remember that our main goal as always is to keep our community safe. After today we will bring you weekly statements for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,
Councilman Mark Goldsack