



March 21st, 2020

Hello. As we continue to diligently practice social distancing, the Mayor and my fellow council members will individually deliver video messages to you for the foreseeable future.

I'd like to update everyone as to the state of the Borough as of 3pm today, Saturday, March 21st.

To clarify misinformation that has been circulating, I'd like to share with you a report from the Rutherford Health Department updating residents regarding COVID-19 activity in the Borough as reported by the New Jersey State Health Department Communicable Disease Registration Surveillance System (CDRSS).

- As we mentioned earlier in the week, there are currently two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Borough.
- In addition, three residents who returned from a foreign country with a high level of COVID-19 activity are self-monitoring their health for 14 days at home. They are asymptomatic and have not been tested. Two of those residents have chosen to spend those 14 days in their home state, outside of New Jersey. One resident is self-monitoring at home in Rutherford.
- The Health Department would like to remind you that anything not posted in the CDRSS system should be considered non-credible.

Earlier today Governor Murphy issued a "stay at home" order via an [Executive Order](#), which I ask you to read the entirety of on our [Borough website](#). According to that order, residents are to stay at home or at their place of residence unless they are leaving for food, medical attention or reporting to a job. All non-essential retail businesses, which were previously operating on limited hours, must now close entirely. Online delivery can continue. The list of essential retail businesses that can stay open can also be found in the [Executive Order](#).

This order will go into effect at 9pm tonight (Saturday, March 21st) and will stay in effect until the Governor revokes or modifies it. The Borough will continue to operate by appointment only. Residents who need to conduct business are required to call ahead to schedule an appointment. If possible we encourage residents to conduct business online as much as possible for the foreseeable future.

I'd also like to use this opportunity to mention that Rutherford EMS is currently looking for N95 masks and/or surgical masks. Please, if you have an extra box or two, consider donating them.

They are running low and we want to ensure the safety of our first responders. Please contact myself or any of my colleagues to donate.

As always, I'd like to thank my fellow residents for complying with all current guidelines the Borough, County and State have put in place to keep us all as safe and healthy as possible. I'd like to remind everyone to continue to support our local businesses during this time and be mindful that we're all in this together.

This of course is a fluid situation and the Borough is in constant communication with County and State officials. As needed, we will be updating residents by [Borough website](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) daily.

Sincerely,  
Councilwoman Stephanie McGowan