



Health Department

72 Eyland Avenue
Succasunna, NJ 07876
(973) 448-2028
Fax (973) 252-6079
healthdepartment@roxburynj.us

TO: John Shepherd, Township Manager
FROM: Mark Caputo, Health Officer
DATE: April 14, 2020
RE: Coronavirus Update

You requested a Health Department update on the Status of Coronavirus (CV19) in our community to share with the Council. As of yesterday, Roxbury has 148 confirmed cases. There were 3 deaths, 2 of which resided at a long term care (LTC) facility.

Please note the following actions have taken by our Department:

- The HD offices are now closed to the public and staff is working from home, whenever possible. Staff may have to enter the building to collect work, but are instructed to communicate to the rest of the staff to maintain safe social distancing.
- Prior to office closing, staff inventoried our PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and donated surplus to our own first responders via our OEM Coordinator.
- Normal routine inspection programs conducted by the REHS staff have been suspended with the exception our septic system inspection program. This program is considered an essential infrastructure service as a “Utility” and required to continue as per Executive Order 122.
- REHS (Registered Environmental Health Specialist) staff have been trained and approved to utilize the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). The REHS are assisting our PHN/CDI in conducting contact tracing.

- Contact tracing is a function whereby our staff interview positive cases reported in CDRSS and advise resident “cases” and “contacts to cases” of the required isolation and quarantine measures.
- HD staff has also worked with local PD to investigate and respond to complaints related to the recent series of Governors Orders that in effect closes non-essential business and requires certain social distancing for business are deemed essential.
- Our PHN/CDI has worked closely with our LTC facility to mitigate the effects of a CV19 outbreak in its facility. Our nurse is available 24/7 for consultation to our LTC facility to assist and advise of NJ DOH approved mitigation measures.
- We participate in daily NJDOH conference calls and weekly Morris County Office of Health Management calls. Additionally, HD staff is present at all administrative conferences.
- Municipal CV19 stats are communicated to our administrative staff. Municipal data is available on the Morris County Office of Health Management web site.
- Morris County Office of Emergency Management (MCOEM) operates a county wide CV19 test center at the County College of Morris in Randolph. In order to be tested you must have a prescription from your physician and register on the MCOEM website. Tests are by appointment only. Symptomatic first responder with a prescription will be given priority.

The HD will continue to operate as described above. Staff is available to conduct field investigations of public health nuisances, housing and environmental complaints. The only programs that have been placed on hold are routine inspection work such as food inspections etc. Animal control operations continue. The ACO is dispatched from her home.