



June 25, 2020

**RE: Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak
State of Emergency**

My Fellow Residents,

Between the first week of May 2020 and June 15th, Glen Ridge did not record a single additional positive case of Covid-19. However, since June 16th we have had four new positive cases. Unfortunately, this reversal coincides with the outset of the State's stage 2 reopening of our economy with its relaxation of the lockdown measures we have lived under for the past five months. This resurgence is not too surprising in view of what is now occurring in much of the United States (marches, large social gatherings, political rallies, etc. where clearly the use of masks, social distancing and sanitization protocols have been largely abandoned).

Clearly, the pandemic is not over and has not lost its virulence as we have just recorded over 125,000 deaths in the U.S. from this virus and yesterday recorded 45,557 new positive cases in the U.S., unfortunately the highest total ever in a single day.

I am therefore asking every resident of Glen Ridge to:

Not only renew, but strengthen your commitment to adhere to the basic protocols which worked so well for Glen Ridge between early May to mid-June, namely wearing masks when out in public, maintaining social distancing, frequent hand sanitizing and periodic Covid-19 testing, and

Be extremely thoughtful and deliberate in the decisions you and your family make as you attempt to regain more control of your lives and return to a more normal post-lockdown lifestyle. We are all going to face tough daily choices and the choices we make could have extremely serious repercussions for both our families and neighbors. For example, if you are a golfer and use a cart, until this past weekend, only one individual was permitted to ride in the cart unless that individual was with a close family member. That restriction has now been lifted and you now have the choice to ride with anybody you choose, or you can elect to continue to ride separately. The key question here is, does it make sense for you to ride with an acquaintance/stranger when neither of you are wearing a mask, maintain absolutely no social distancing, and are in constant physical contact with the other person and their equipment or should you continue to ride alone? Does it make sense to go to places where a major percentage of the attendees will very likely not be wearing masks or paying any attention to social distancing or disinfecting protocols?

Please, let's err on the side of caution so that we continue to move forward and not find ourselves again at the bottom of a rising and very deadly Covid 19 curve.

What To Do If You Are Sick:

If you believe you are sick, please see the CDC guidance at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>.

Testing:

As we move forward through this pandemic we encourage all of our residents to get tested whether or not you believe you are symptomatic. Essex County hosts a variety of testing locations. Free testing locations of County residents, along with countywide data, can be found at <https://essexcountynj.org/>

Assistance:

We recognize these are unprecedented times and residents may be experiencing financial hardship due to the impact of COVID-19. The Borough is continuing its special program to distribute Grocery Gift Cards from ShopRite and Foodtown to residents of the Borough who can use this assistance. Residents who wish to receive a Grocery Gift Card should contact Paula Peikes, Bloomfield Human Services at (973) 680-4017/ TTY: 1-800-852-7899 or ppeikes@bloomfieldtwpnj.com . All information provided in connection with any request for a Grocery Gift Card will be confidential.

Funding for this Grocery Gift Card Program is made available by the Borough's Community Service Committee, The Glen Ridge Community Fund, Glen Ridge Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club of Glen Ridge. We encourage all residents who may require this assistance to please reach out. The Grocery Gift Card Program will continue so long as funds remain available.

Residents are advised that additional services and financial assistance programs are available through our shared Social Services Department with Bloomfield Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Human Services. For information, screening and eligibility for additional programs, residents are advised to contact Bloomfield Human Services (973) 680-4017/ TTY: 1-800-852-7899

Additionally, Essex County is offering mobile food assistance sites. Locations can be found at <https://essexcountynj.org/>.

Parks & Outdoor Space:

Parks

On Monday, June 22, 2020 we opened our parks subject to specific State mandated regulations. Please note the following:

- Playgrounds at Carteret Park, Clay Field, Forest Avenue School, Linden Avenue School, Ridgewood Avenue School, Central School and the Carteret Park rink remain closed, but will be opened shortly.
- Face coverings are required.
- Those entering the park must maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from others.
- Permits are required when an event becomes an organized activity, league game, or is advertised to the public. For information on permits, contact the Glen Ridge Recreation office (973) 748-2924.

- Sporting activities, including organized sporting activities, are permitted provided they do not involve person-to-person contact or routinely entail individuals interacting within six feet of one another. Any sporting activities that involve person-to person contact or individuals routinely interacting in close proximity (within six feet of one another) are prohibited.
- Water fountains will not be available.

Tennis

Freeman Tennis courts are also open for play subject to certain regulations. Please visit <http://www.glenridgenj.org/freemantenniscourts.htm> for additional information.

Jitney, Train Station & Community Center:

NJT Trains are still running.

The Borough jitney program is cancelled until further notice.

Parking enforcement for the Commuter Parking zone on Ridgewood Avenue is suspended. Drivers utilizing the Glen Ridge Train Station may park in the Commuter Parking area on Ridgewood Avenue. Parking in designated handicapped spaces or illegal parking, in violation of state law or ordinance, will be enforced.

The Community Center at the Glen Ridge Train Station is closed to the public until further notice.

All events at the Community Center, private or public, are cancelled until further notice.

The Glen Ridge senior citizen programs are canceled until further notice.

Parking:

Until further notice all overnight on street parking rules are suspended. This suspension does not include parking lots or the one-hour parking zone in our commercial area. Parking in designated handicapped spaces or illegal parking in violation of state law or ordinance will be enforced.

Department of Public Works:

Public Works will continue to operate. Garbage and recycling collection services will continue during this time.

Starting in July, the monthly Electronics Recycling drop off at the Public Works Yard will resume. The Styrofoam Recycling program remains closed at this time.

Glen Ridge Freecycle Day will resume in July as well.

Municipal Building:

The staff will be available via phone and email.

Please call the main number at 973-748-8400 for assistance. For the Municipal Court Offices, please call 973-748-8116. The entire staff directory can be found at <http://glenridgenj.org/grdirectory.htm>

A series of secure drop boxes have been installed in front of the main entrance to Borough Hall. Customers can use these boxes to drop off their building permits, various applications or payments. Please be sure that your name and address is written on the outside of your envelope.

Birth & Death Certificates:

The New Jersey Office of Vital Statistics and Registry offers the convenience of ordering a copy of vital records (Birth & Death Certificates) online <https://www.state.nj.us/health/vital/order-vital/online-requests/index.shtml>.

Municipal Court:

Please contact the court directly via phone. You can reach our Court Administrator at dciandolo@glenridgenj.org or 973-748-8116

You can pay tickets online at:

https://portalnjmcdirect-cloud.njcourts.gov/prweb/PRServletPublicAuth/wQ2guhy8lqKPggD8pVI7RLYVZ9vxwNMF*!STANDARD?AppName=NJMC

Building Department:

Staff will still be reviewing permit applications and performing inspections. Applicants are encouraged to download the counter form from the website and mail the completed form with necessary plans to the office (<http://www.glenridgenj.org/pdfs/building.pdf>).

With regard to home sales, we will be working with home buyers and sellers on affirming their smoke detector certificates and zoning compliance certificates.

You can reach our Historic Preservation Consultant at hpc@glenridgenj.org or 973-748-8400 ext. 238

You can reach the Director of Planning & Development at eideline@glenridgenj.org or 973-748-8400 ext. 238.

Library:

Starting on June 22, the Glen Ridge Library now offers Grab and Go library service. Residents may request items held in the library's collection through the catalog at glenridgelibrary.org. Once notified, patrons may visit the library, ring the bell and a staff member will provide you your materials all bagged and ready to go. Details and Grab and Go hours can be found on the library's website at glenridgelibrary.org/grabandgo or call the library at 973-748-5482

Miscellaneous:

At this time no filming permits, garage sale permits, and block party permits will be issued.

The above guidelines and services provided continue to evolve and change on almost a daily basis. We encourage you to subscribe to our email announcement at <https://www.glenridgenj.org> and follow us on Facebook.

Finally, I cannot find the words to adequately express my tremendous appreciation, and that of the Borough Council, to our police and ambulance members, our public works crew and

administrative staff for all of their hard work and dedication to our community during this extremely difficult period.

To our residents, please remain safe, stay the course, and thank you for your continuing cooperation.

Sincerely,

Stuart K. Patrick

Mayor Stuart K. Patrick