Please note that information highlighted in yellow reflects new and updated information.

Updated: March 16, 2020 4:30pm

(Clifton) - The Clifton Health Department, in consultation with the City Manager, Mayor and Council, understands that residents are concerned about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The City of Clifton now has a total of 4 cases. Please be assured that the Health Department has been working diligently with the City administration to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We have been in constant communication with our Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Works, Clifton Board of Education, Boys and Girls Club, long-term care facilities, and other community partners, in collaboration with New Jersey Department of Health and Passaic County Department of Health Services.

We would like to remind you of basic preventative actions that should be followed during this pandemic. As per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, please be sure that you:

- Practice handwashing regularly for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick, and avoid close contact with people who are sick

In addition, be sure to practice the following social distancing measures:

- Keep a distance of at least 6 feet with people who are coughing or sneezing
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact, such as handshaking
- Avoid attending crowded events and social gatherings. Consider replacing in-person gatherings with video chatting, voice messaging and phone calls

Please note that testing is only available for symptomatic individuals. Symptoms include a fever of more than 100.4, coughing, and shortness of breath. **The Health Department does not test for COVID-19.** Testing can be done through medical providers, contact your healthcare provider to see if you are eligible for testing.
Out of an abundance of caution, the following locations in the City of Clifton will be closed to the public until further notice:

- Clifton City Hall
- Clifton Public Schools
- Fire Headquarters
- Clifton DPW Garage
- Clifton Senior Center
- Clifton Arts Center
- Boys and Girls Club of Clifton
- Clifton Recreation Center
- City Parks and Playgrounds
- Clifton Public Libraries
- Clifton Hamilton House Museum

Residents will be able to continue to conduct business with the City during the closure through use of the City’s website. In addition, staff in each department will be available during regular business hours by telephone to assist residents and answer questions.

Clifton Municipal Court sessions have been suspended from Monday, March 16, 2020 continuing through Friday, March 27, 2020.

Seniors who are in need of a meal should call Margaret Nysk at 973-470-2249.

Additionally, as per Executive Order 104, which was enacted by Governor Murphy on 3/16/2020, the following will be in effect immediately:

- All public, private, and parochial preschool program premises, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, shall be closed to students beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and shall remain closed as long as this Order remains in effect.

- All institutions of higher education shall cease in-person instruction beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and shall cease such in-person instruction as long as this Order remains in effect.

- All bars and restaurants are closed for eat-in services effective 8pm tonight. After 8pm, these establishments may open for takeout and delivery services ONLY, until further notice. These restrictions are in place during normal business hours.
• Effective 8pm tonight, gyms, fitness centers, entertainment centers including, but not limited to movie theaters, performing art centers, other concert venues, and night clubs are closed.

• All licensed establishments are limited to the sale of packaged goods in original containers for consumption off premise.

• Other non-essential retail, recreational, and entertainment businesses must cease daily operations from 8:00pm until 5:00am. From 5:00am to 8:00pm, these businesses may remain open if they limit their occupancy to no more than 50 persons, which include employees, and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

• Essential businesses are excluded from this directive, examples include: grocery/food stores, pharmacies, medical supply stores, gas stations, health care facilities, and ancillary stores within health care facilities.

In addition: Starting tonight, 3/16/2020, all non-essential and non-emergency travel in New Jersey is strongly discouraged between the hours of 8:00 pm and 5:00 am; this will remain in effect for the foreseeable future.

For general questions pertaining to COVID-19, please call the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-222-1222. If using an out-of-state phone line, please call 1-800-962-1253. For mental health-related concerns during COVID-19, please call the Disaster Distress Hotline at 1-800-985-5990 or text “talk with us” at 66746. If you wish to get in touch with the Clifton Health Department for general COVID-19 questions, please email Health Educator Layal Helwani at lhelwani@cliftonnj.org.

A copy of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order 104 is attached to this Press Release for your reference.