



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Health
201 Wheatsworth Road
Hamburg, New Jersey 07419
Telephone: (973) 579-0370
FAX: (973) 579-0399

CAROL NOVRI
Administrator

JAMES R. MCDONALD III, M.S.
Director / Health Officer

County of Sussex

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CONTACT:
James R. McDonald III, M.S.
Director / Health Officer
973-579-0370

COVID-19 Awareness Message from the Sussex County Freeholder Director

(Hardyston, NJ) Sussex County Freeholder Director Sylvia Petillo and the Board of Chosen Freeholders recognize that our residents are concerned and may be experiencing feelings of fear and uncertainty about the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have been reported in the United States, as well as the cases that were recently reported in our State of New Jersey. The Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Sussex County Division of Health share your concerns and want to assure you that we are working diligently with our local, state, and federal partners to respond to the public health threat posed by this virus.

The Sussex County Division of Health, in coordination with other county divisions, is prepared and ready to respond should the virus emerge in our County. Members of staff are trained and routinely drill in emergency response. We also have volunteers and healthcare professionals from the Sussex County Medical Reserve Corps as well as volunteers from our Community Emergency Response Teams who are prepared to assist in an emergency response to this outbreak.

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Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help

prevent COVID-19:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid contact with others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces

This is not a time to panic, but a time for preparation. Do your part to keep our community safe and healthy.

We ask you to share fact not fear and that you refer to credible sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and the New Jersey Department of Health to obtain updated information on COVID-19. Information from these organizations can be found on our County website at www.sussex.nj.us.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Health would also like to emphasize that this is a rapidly changing, fluid situation, but we remain vigilant in keeping up to date with the latest guidance and recommendations from our state and federal partners. We will continue to provide our residents with the most current and accurate information as it becomes available.

The safety of our residents is our highest priority, and we assure you that we stand ready to respond should the virus appear in our County.

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