



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
Sussex County Administrative Center  
One Spring Street  
Newton, NJ 07860  
973-579-0559, ext. 1227  
Fax: 973-579-9894  
cnovrit@sussex.nj.us

**Carol A. Novrit**  
*Administrator*

**County of Sussex**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 16, 2020

**CONTACT:**  
Carol A. Novrit, Department Administrator  
(973) 579-0559, ext. 1227

## **2019 Novel Coronavirus Congregate Nutrition Services Suspended**

(Newton, NJ) The highest priority of the Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior Services is the health and safety of the seniors we serve. Early information on 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) suggests that older adults and people with chronic or underlying health conditions have a heightened risk of getting very sick if they become infected.

An important step to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to reduce exposure to large groups of people. In accordance with New Jersey Department of Human Services guidance, the Division of Senior Services has suspended all congregate nutrition services at the Franklin, Hopatcong and Vernon sites as of Monday, March 16, 2020, until advised otherwise.

The Division of Senior Services is working with Newton Medical Center, which provides the meals to nutrition sites, and each Nutrition Site Manager to coordinate the delivery of meals to participants whose sole source of nutrition is dependent on these sites.

For answers to questions about service delivery, please call the Division of Senior Services at 973-579-0555. Information is also readily available on the County website at [sussex.nj.us](http://sussex.nj.us).

- continued -

The immediate health and safety of the Sussex County seniors and caregivers we serve are our top priority. We are committed to working with our individuals, their families, and the provider community to identify the best available solutions to keep individuals safe.

All residents should continue to monitor their health and exercise good hygiene habits. Actions you can take to help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illness like COVID-19 include the following:

- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Practice social distancing to reduce the spread of germs.
- Families and individuals should create or update their family emergency plans.

The Sussex County website has a wide array of information available to the public on COVID-19 and links to both the CDC and NJDOH at [www.sussex.nj.us](http://www.sussex.nj.us). You can also visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and the New Jersey Department of Health at [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health). Residents are also encouraged to call the NJ Coronavirus and Poison Center Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 or 1-800-962-1253 if using an out of state phone line with any questions.

###