

Township of Cedar Grove



Situational Awareness Report

(SIT REP) #16

4-24-2020

Preliminary

- ✓ All new information contained in this report will be **Highlighted**
- ✓ All emergencies dial **911**
- ✓ All other Non-emergency's dial **973-239-4100**

A. Cedar Grove Emergency Service Status

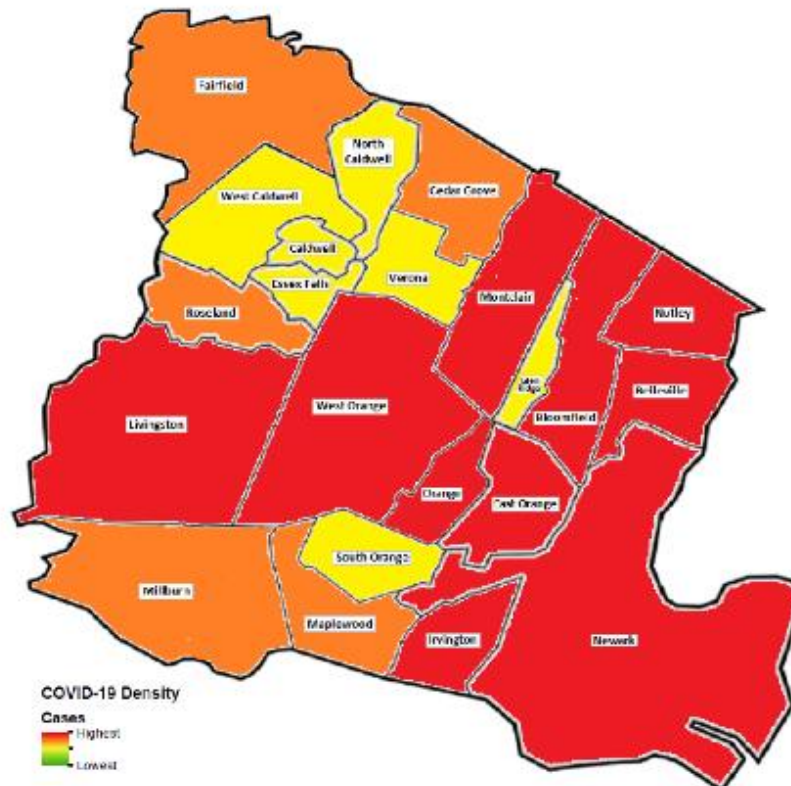
- ✓ **Police** full strength, no officers out
- ✓ **Fire** Department full strength, no members out
- ✓ **EMS** Atlantic Ambulance Corp, dedicated ambulance located at 14 Cedar Street additional ambulance available upon request. **To date, Atlantic EMS 20 has responded to 71 Calls**

B. Fire Mutual Aid

- ✓ As of March 20, 2020 at 0800 hours Essex County Fire Mutual Aid will not dispatch units for house coverage.
- ✓ In the event, the Incident Commander feels that the fire or incident may escalate, IC can have additional companies respond and stage nearby. Otherwise, departments will cover from their own firehouse and monitor the radio for changing conditions or requests for additional units.

C. Township COVID-19 Information:

Concentration of Cases by Town in Essex County



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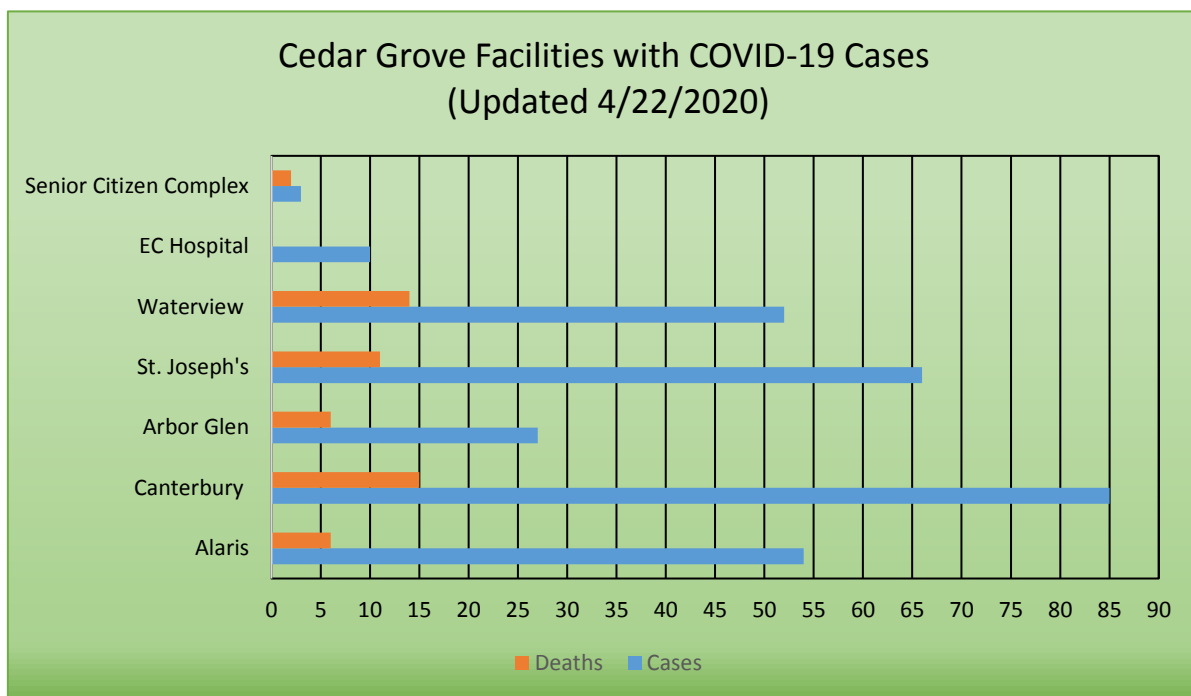
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D. Township Positive Cases Reported Table, as reported on the ECSD current situation report

- ✓ Currently, based on information from the below **Positive Case Reported Table** provided from Essex County, we estimate 58% of the townships confirmed positive COVID-19 cases are in facilities.
- ✓ Note, State Epidemiologist Dr. Christina Tan: advises that deaths are considered a lagging indicator.

Cedar Grove	Time	Last Report	Current Rpt.	Case Change	Previous Deaths	Current Deaths	Death Change
4-23-2020	7pm	256	257	1	48	46	-2
4-24-2020	9am	257	257	0	46	50	4

E. Cedar Grove Facilities with COVID-19 Cases as reported by NJDOH update 4/22/20



Source, NJDOH

NJDOH Reports deaths Include COVID-positive deaths, deaths in persons with pending test results, and respiratory illness deaths for which COVID testing was not performed. The cases reported in this table are self-reported by facilities at a point in time and may not reflect real-time data. Case numbers are constantly changing and subject to updates. (This chart will be updated when done so by the NJDOH)

Notes: Essex County Hospital and Cedar Grove Senior Citizen Complex data was from local sources.

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F. Announcements

- ✓ **Essex County Emergency Food Distribution Event** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10 a.m. Essex County Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom Welcome Center Enter Park via Heller Parkway Newark, NJ. It will be held RAIN or SHINE.
 - Enter Branch Brook Park via Heller Parkway or other southern entrances.
 - No Left Turns allowed into Cherry Blossom Welcome Center Parking Lot.
 - No arrivals before 8 a.m.
 - Drivers must keep their windows rolled up and open their trunk.
 - Buses and walk-ups cannot be served.
- ✓ Yesterday the governor's office announced Bergen and Monmouth testing sites will conduct testing on any New Jersey resident, regardless of symptom status. Removing the requirement that persons must be symptomatic prior to testing. **The Governor's Office has recanted that announcement citing permitting requirements.** Obviously there is discussion regarding the symptomatic requirement, however at this time you must be symptomatic to be tested. Please check at the below link for the most current testing site requirements.

<https://covid19.nj.gov/search.html?query=Testing+Centers+in+NJ>
- ✓ The Tzu Chi Foundation in Cedar Grove operates a **Vegan Food Pantry**. The pantry will be opening on May 1st 2020 and is open for business regularly on Fridays from 11:30 am till 2:00 pm. However the Tzu Chi Foundation has made arrangements with the Cedar Grove Health Dept. to provide vegetables and dry goods to anyone in need by contacting the Cedar Grove Health Departments Dee Riou at 973-239-1410 X 224.
- ✓ The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) has secured the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS) to assist healthcare providers, first response agencies, and any other agencies in decontaminating their N95 respirators at NO CHARGE to the sending agencies. All township facilities were advised of the service.

CGHS Updates: *From Rick Mangili, Principal Cedar Grove High School*

- ✓ 1. I am sure many of my senior parents are concerned with our traditional end-of-year celebrations and whether we will be able to hold them. I share your concern about these events, with that being said, we have moved our **Junior/Senior Prom to Tuesday, July 14th**. The concern of social distancing may still play a major part in New Jersey in early June, thus our decision to move the date from June 4th to mid-July was based on the health and safety of our students. Additionally, with all non-essential stores being closed since March 16th, I am sure we have students who have yet to find dresses and make hair appointments etc. ****We are looking to have our Prom Bids go out in the near future with the hope of having permission slips completed online along with payments.****

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- ✓ **2. Graduation Ceremony** - At this time I continue to remain hopeful we will return back to CGHS in late May or early June. However, if we remain closed for the rest of the school year, we have begun to research alternative options for graduation to ensure our seniors have a meaningful closure to their high school years. Details will be shared when they are finalized.
- ✓ President Trump has unveiled Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts. These steps will help state and local officials when reopening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives. Follow the link below for full details.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

- ✓ Governor Murphy issued an Executive Order closing all NJ schools through Friday, May 15, 2020. As a result of this order, the Cedar Grove School District will remain closed until this order is lifted and we receive permission from local and state agencies to return back to school. Michael J. Fetherman Superintendent of Cedar Grove Schools announced; moving forward, virtual learning will resume on Monday, April 20th under the current format, at least until Friday, May 15. In addition, all school activities, including athletics, will remain postponed until further notice.
- ✓ The American Heart Association has set forth CPR guidelines that apply to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients and anyone whose agency is CPR accredited. Cedar Grove Police and Fire Department are both AHA accredited.
- ✓ Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 127 extending certain deadlines associated with rulemaking. The full Executive Order can be located by following the below link.

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-127.pdf>

- ✓ **How File a Complaint about a Health Care Facility.**
 - The Division does take on-line complaints. Click here: [on-line complaints](#)
 - OR you can file a complaint by phone if you do not want to provide your name. Use the **Complaint Hotline: 1-800-792-9770**. The 24-hour hotline handles consumer complaints and facility emergencies seven days a week. Patients, health care facility employees and other members of the public may file complaints about hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, home health agencies, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, comprehensive personal care homes, adult medical day care, pediatric medical day facilities, and many other licensed acute- and long-term care facilities.
- ✓ **Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 126** prohibiting Cable and Telecommunications Providers from terminating internet and voice service due to nonpayment. The full Executive Order can be located by following the below link.

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-126.pdf>

Press Release

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NJMVC Extends Expiration Dates for Driver Licenses, Registrations, and Inspections In Response to COVID-19 Outbreak

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission Chief Administrator Sue Fulton have announced that due to the COVID-19 outbreak and to protect the public, the MVC will extend expiration dates for driver licenses, registrations, and inspection stickers.

Effective immediately, the NJMVC will grant a two-month extension for:

- ✓ Driver licenses expiring in March, April, and May
- ✓ Registrations expiring in March, April, and May
- ✓ Inspection stickers expiring in March, April, and May

“All residents who have their driver’s licenses, auto registration, or vehicle inspection due for a renewal by May 31 will receive an automatic two-month extension,” said Governor Murphy. “Keeping New Jerseyans out of crowded Motor Vehicle agencies is another step we can take to limit exposure and hold the line against the spread of COVID-19.”

“Extending the expiration dates will reduce the numbers of customers who come through our agencies daily, helping us to reduce the risk to New Jerseyans,” Chief Fulton said. “We also strongly encourage customers to renew their licenses and registrations online if they are eligible.”

For expiration dates falling in March, the renewal deadline is extended to May; for expiration dates falling in April, the renewal deadline is extended to June; for expiration dates falling in May, the renewal deadline is extended to July.

By law, Chief Administrator Fulton has the authority to extend expiration dates when a State of Emergency has been declared. Governor Murphy declared a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency on March 9 as part of the state’s coordinated response to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The NJMVC continues to encourage those customers who are eligible to conduct online transactions, including license renewals, vehicle registrations and change of address, to do so by visiting [NJMVC.gov](https://njmvc.gov).

Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order #123 Extends Insurance Premium Grace Periods:

- ✓ All property and casualty insurance companies, life insurance companies, insurance premium finance companies, health insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, health service corporations and other entities issuing health or dental benefits plans in this State (collectively, “subject entities”) shall not cancel during the emergency grace period any policy or contract as a result of nonpayment as defined in the governors order please follow the below link for full details:

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-123.pdf>

- ✓ **Allowed Residential Contraction, Gov. Order #122: 1.** Projects already underway involving individual single-family homes, or an individual apartment unit where an individual already resides, with a construction crew of 5 or fewer individuals. This includes additions to single-family homes such as solar panels; **2.** Projects already underway involving a

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- residential unit for which a tenant or buyer has already entered into a legally binding agreement to occupy the unit by a certain date, and construction is necessary to ensure the unit's availability by that date; **3.** Residential projects that are exclusively designated as affordable housing.
- ✓ The National Ambulance Contract has been activated to Essex County. Any towns needing mutual aid ambulance service can contact the municipal OEM coordinator and submit a request. 50 Basic Life Support, BLS Units, and 25 Advanced Life Support, ALS Units are located at the Meadowlands Complex. Those resources can be assigned any jurisdictions needing assistance. We are not in need of mutual aid assistance at this time. It is available to us. EMS calls are averaging 3 to 4 calls a day and are being handled without the need for additional resources.
 - ✓ The National Weather Service has issued a, "**Red Flag Warning**", for Essex County as well as the rest of the State. The conditions are right for the rapid spread of fires due to the low humidity, wind and warm weather. There should be no outdoor burning. Keep a watchful eye on the Reservations, Parks and other wooded area.
 - ✓ NJSP Colonel Callahan issued a letter to all licensed post-acute care health systems, hospitals and facilities regarding the implementation of Executive Order 111. Colonel Callahan's letter reiterates the obligations for these facilities to report their pertinent data in the NJHA portal by 10:00 p.m. daily. This information will be the basis for their receipt of PPE supplies, which State OEM will allocate in accordance with CDC guidance based upon the information reported.
 - ✓ The New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center (NJ ROIC) is providing this informational bulletin in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage vigilant citizens to report incidents of fraud, hoarding, and price gouging to the National Center for **Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at (866) 720-5721** or email at disaster@leo.gov. Please visit the blow link for further information.

<https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>

- ✓ If you are feeling anxious and need to talk with someone you can **1-866-202-HELP**
- ✓ If you have a general question you can **call 211**

Nursing and Long Term Care Facilities Update

In regards to the 5 Long Term Care Facilities in Cedar Grove. We have been in continual contact with the department of health regarding the severe impact of COVID-19 on these facilities. Health officials advise that once a case of COVID19 has been detected in one of these facility, it is considered an outbreak. The facility is then assigned an outbreak number and all of the cases within the facility in its residents and staff are linked.

The Township of Cedar Grove shares health service with Montclair Health Dept. The Montclair Health Dept. Director of Nursing is directly responsible for coordination with NJDOH, the epidemiologists at Essex Regional Health Commission, and the Directors of the Long Term Care Facilities, here after referred to as LTC Facilities.

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The LTC facilities are all documenting a number of data points including but not limited to temperature readings, symptoms of residents and staff and whether they were hospitalized and/or discharged or have died. The facilities are required to submit this data to the director of nursing daily. The health department is working closely the facilities to ensure they understand and are following all of the guidance being put forth from NJDOH. There are also “Recommendations for Long Term Care Facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic”, such as making sure there is an all hazards emergency preparedness program and plan in place, aggressive visitor restriction and staff sick leave policies, grouping of residents according to their health status (sick, exposed but asymptomatic, not exposed and asymptomatic), utilizing telemedicine, universal masking of staff (N-95) and residents (paper facemasks) if they can tolerate it, etc. There is an “Outbreak Management Checklist for COVID19 in nursing, which is a chart for the director of the LTC Facility to use in making sure they have taken all of the appropriate steps to manage the outbreak in their facility, including the above recommendations, but also cleaning and disinfecting, infection control, patient and staff management.

Once the controls have been in place, NJDOH has said it will take approximately 14 days until their effectiveness will be evident. Department of health is monitoring their progress, and sadly, symptomatic residents and those that have passed away. “Needless to say, It’s has been heartbreaking for all those involved, especially the health care professionals working in these facilities, who feel somewhat helpless against what is happening”. The Cedar Grove Township Manager, Mayor, Council and Public Safety Partners will continue to work with state, county, and our local health officials. We stand ready to assist in any manner necessary. Please keep the residents and staff of these facilities along with our health officials in your thoughts. Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Stay Home, Stay Alert.

- ✓ The Township of Cedar Grove SIT Rep Report will be updated daily after the morning New Jersey State Corr-Sat FLO Info Share Meeting.
- ✓ **Cedar Grove Senior Citizens Complex** , this SIT REP will be e mailed daily to the Site Manager at 100 Cedar Ridge Drive where it will be printed and posted for those seniors who do not have access to the Townships Web Site.
- ✓ We have reached out to the leaders of the townships religious groups regarding the holy week and the states social distancing requirements. Please note that there have been no threats toward religious groups in the state however everyone should remain vigilant.
- ✓ Governor Murphy announces postponement of June 2nd Primary Elections until July 7th.
- ✓ The Governors issued Executive Order NO. 122. This Order shall take effect beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020, and shall remain in effect until revoked. Below are a few of the requirements that are most likely to affect us all, the document is vast and for full details follow the link below.

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-122.pdf>

Where an essential retail business must adopt policies that include, at minimum, the following requirements:

- Limit occupancy at 50% of the stated maximum store capacity, if applicable, at one time;

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- Install a physical barrier, such as a shield guard, between customers and cashiers;
- Requires frequent sanitization of high-touch areas;
- Requires workers and customers to wear cloth face coverings while on the premises, except where doing so would inhibit that individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age, and require workers to wear gloves when in contact with customers or goods. If a customer refuses to wear a cloth face covering for non-medical reasons and if such covering cannot be provided to the individual by the business at the point of entry, then the business must decline entry to the individual, unless the business is providing medication;

This Order shall take effect beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020, and shall remain in effect until revoked

- ✓ The number of infected individuals in any municipality is likely to be much greater than indicated in the above Positive Case Reported Table as this data ONLY includes persons who have been tested and whose lab results have been reported in the State's data system.
- ✓ There has been a significant drop in number of people gathering in the county parks which are located within Cedar Grove, Great job at staying home and Social Distancing C.G.
- ✓ The State of New Jersey's Department of Health is currently formulating a state wide approach to the COVID-19 in the states nursing and long term care facilities.
- ✓ **A special council** meeting will be conducted by via video conference Monday 4-13-2020 at 7pm. Go to the township web site for additional information on virtually attending.
- ✓ **The mayor and council** want you to properly discard your PPE!



Please place your used PPE into a proper waste disposal container, failure to do so is a violation of the Governor's Emergency Order and may subject you to an ordinance violation

- ✓ **Birthday Celebrations**, we have had a significant number of requests for birthday drive-bys for children. Additionally Folks have begun to organize impromptu "Birthday Parades". The community aspect of the drive-by has been fantastic. However, while it does not in itself violate the Governor's Executive Orders it has unfortunately had the potential to draw

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groups of ten people together which is a violation of the governors order. It most certainly violates the spirit of social distancing and necessary travel. After weighing the benefits verses the risk we will be discontinuing the birthday drive-by's and discourage the practice of birthday parades.

- ✓ **Long Term Facilities**, the long term facilities in the state as in Cedar Grove has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. The police have been in close communication with facility administrators and the state is formulating a statewide approach to managing COVID-19 at long term care facility.

G. Township Municipal Building

- ✓ Physical access to the municipal building will be limited until further notice. The tax collection window will not be accepting payments directly at the window. The drop box can be utilized in the lobby of town hall for all in person payments. Residents are encouraged to use online payments wherever available.
- ✓ All municipal offices will be open for information by telephone, fax or e-mail. There will be no office visitation allowed.
- ✓ In person contact with town hall employees is by appointment only and for emergent matters only.
- ✓ All Recreation programs must be applied for online, Call 973-239-1410 Ext. 220
- ✓ Cedar Grove Municipal Court is cancelled until further notice, Call 973-239-1410 Ext. 205
- ✓ The Police Records and Dispatch windows are open, better to call first, Call 973-239-4100
- ✓ Health Department, operating remotely,
 - Anyone needing assistance call 973-239-1410 Ext. 224

H. Building/Fire/Electric/Plumbing Inspections

- ✓ Department of Public Works, split shifts, no employees out call 973-239-1410 Ext. 280
- ✓ Pick up and drop off of permit applications will be by appointment only. Appointments can be arranged by calling (973) 239-1410 Ext. 246. You may be asked some screening questions at the time of setting up the appointment.
- ✓ In an effort to minimize contact, inspector will be using discretion when entering dwellings. To minimize interaction, only one individual need be present and only limited to contractor, homeowner or an authorized representative.
- ✓ All non-essential inspections will be suspended until after April 27, 2020. Only inspections related to closings prior to March 30, 2020 will be scheduled prior to April 27, 2020. All other inspections will resume April 27, 2020 if conditions permit.

I. Public Works/Water Sewer Department

- ✓ All non-emergent in home work will be suspended until after April 27, 2020 if conditions permit.
- ✓ All water meter installations are suspended until April 27, 2020.
- ✓ Water meter reading will only be performed electronically. There will be no in home water meter reading. Residents who require physical reads may self-read the meter and call or e-

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mail information. Final water meter readings will be by appointment only. Only one person may be present during the final read similar to number 2 above.

J. Recreation Facilities

- ✓ All recreation program are suspended until further notice when conditions permit resumption.
- ✓ All township recreation facilities are closed until further notice when conditions permit resumption.
- ✓ Governor Murphy issued executive order 118 on 4-7-2020 whereas as all state parks and forests and county parks must close to the public as long as this Order remains in effect.

K. Cedar Grove Public Library

- ✓ The Cedar Grove Public Library is closed until further notice consistent with the Cedar Grove Public School closing. Notification will be made upon anticipated reopening.

L. Senior/Medical Transportation

- ✓ Normal senior bus routes have been modified to limit trips to food and pharmacy trips only. It is strongly recommended food purchases be made on-line or via phone orders with the bus service used for pick up and payment.

M. Solid Waste and Recycling

- ✓ All solid waste, recycling, bulk waste and vegetative waste pickup will resume on a normal schedule until further notice.
- ✓ The township recycling center will be open normal scheduled hours.

N. Township Council/Board/Committee Meeting

- ✓ The regular scheduled Township Council meetings will be conducted via video conference. Public participation methods for future meetings will be posted to allow public interaction consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act and directives from the Governors' Office. Go to the township web site for additional information. All board and advisory committee meeting have been postponed until further notice when conditions allow.