

RELEASE DATE:

March 16, 2020

PREPARED BY:

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – Hardyston Township Revised Municipal Operations

Out of an abundance of caution and to help curtail the possibility of community spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Township is undertaking the following emergency protective measures effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 until further notice.

The Township is committed to the continuous delivery of essential public services during the rapidly evolving outbreak of COVID-19. Please be advised that:

- The Township Municipal Offices will be closed for public access without an appointment until further notice.
- The Police Department lobby will remain open for emergencies and police related matters.
- Residents are advised to utilize online payment options, U.S. Mail, or drop box services at Town Hall for taxes, utility payments, licenses, permits and other local government business.
- Most forms and applications are available through the Township website at <http://www.hardyston.com/fees-applications/>, if you cannot find what you are looking for please call (973) 823-7020.
- Residents are advised to utilize phone or email to make routine inquires and/or report information to the municipality.
- Township inspectors will be using discretion when entering dwellings and interacting with the public. Non-emergency inspections may be re-scheduled.
- Telephone screening for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to all inspections will be occurring.
- All Boards and Commission meetings are cancelled thru March 31, 2020
- The Township Council meetings will be held as scheduled, however, may be held by other means of communication equipment, pursuant to N.J.S.A.

10:4-8(b), if necessary. More information on this, including how the public will be permitted to participate in the meeting, may be forthcoming as conditions change.

- The Hardyston Township Municipal Court Session for Wednesday, March 18, 2020 is cancelled. All cases will be rescheduled. Please call (973) 823-7038 for information.
- All rental activities and group (including sports organizations) programs at the Municipal Building, the Littell Community Center and the Wheatsworth Recreation Complex are canceled thru March 31, 2020.
- All Township sponsored recreation events including the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4, 2020.

Other Important Information for the public:

- Calls from concerned public should be referred to the NJ State COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.
- The NJ Department of Human Services operates a toll free “warm line” which is a resource for people seeking mental health service. The warm line is activated during events that impact the mental health of New Jersey residents. The warm line is available 24 hours and has language access; (877) 294-HELP (4357). NOTE: The “warm line” does not replace 911 and is not used to report emergencies.
- Please note that New Jersey’s 3 major power companies will not shut off service for non-payment during the outbreak.
- If you or someone you know is in need of food or medical supplies and are unable to leave your home please contact the Township at (973) 823-7020 and they will make every effort to find the assistance you may need.

All information is subject to change as this pandemic evolves. Residents are advised to monitor the Township’s website and be on the alert for SWIFT REACH 911 notifications.

We strongly urge all residents to take all necessary precautions to prevent the community spread of COVID19. We cannot over emphasize the importance of limiting social contact while the Township and the School District restrictions are in place. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.