

Borough of Wanaque

PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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WANAQUE, NJ 07465



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March 29, 2020

Dear Fellow Residents,

This morning while completing my weekly letter on the COVID-19 epidemic, a phone call was received from our Borough Nurse informing me of a major COVID-19 outbreak at Lakeland Nursing Home on Fifth Avenue in Haskell. Eight people have died and many others, including staff members, are infected. Most of this occurred over the past few days. The Borough Nurse notified me today as soon as she received notice. At this time the infected persons are being treated on site, the facility is being put on lockdown, it will not be accepting additional patients or allow visitors and the state health department is involved.

It was also reported to me that 10 persons are infected at the other nursing home in town, but no deaths to date. These outbreaks at the nursing homes were likely the result of one person at each facility who was unknowingly exposed to the COVID-19 virus either visiting a patient or going to work.

In reflecting on this news, we cannot stress enough the need to remain calm, practice social distancing, work from home and be vigilant. From what the CDC is reporting about this disease, someone can have it in their system for up to 14 days before showing signs of infection. However, during this period the unknowingly infected person can pass on the virus to others.

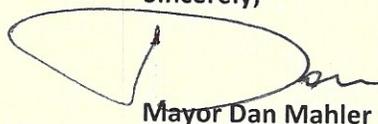
The number of infected persons is increasing daily. Health professionals at the local, county and state levels are inundated, which has led to time delays in reporting statistics. Furthermore, facilities like the two nursing homes in town are also inundated with their efforts to separate patients and control the outbreak resulting in slower reporting times. Our goal is to report current information. My original letter stated that Wanaque had 26 confirmed cases and no deaths. This came from information published by Passaic County yesterday at 4:25 PM. We now know that this number is understated. Regardless of the actual number, what matters is being vigilant, keeping your distance and working together to stop the spread of the virus. Unfortunately, the numbers will likely continue to escalate over the next two to three weeks. Hopefully the numbers will level off or decline if everyone practices social distancing.

The Mayor and Council along with our Emergency Management Team, our Police and Fire Departments, our First Aid Squad, our Borough Administrator and our Borough Nurse are in constant contact. We are struggling to obtain the best and most recent information available and to distribute it to the public. We will continue to keep you informed. A letter from the Mayor will be posted every Sunday evening and updated information will be posted to the Borough website and facebook page.

Please refer to the Wanaque Borough web site at www.wanaqueborough.com and the Wanaque facebook page at www.facebook.com/boroughofwanaquemunicipaloffices/.

I urge everyone to be diligent in their efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 virus.

Sincerely,



Mayor Dan Mahler