



BOROUGH OF PEAPACK AND GLADSTONE

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The Borough like every community in Somerset County is battling the Coronavirus. In this unprecedented pandemic no one has the playbook on how to handle this emergency. Everyone from the Federal Government to local governments to the health care industry to private citizens are contributing to flattening the curve and discovering both a treatment and vaccine for COVID-19.

The Borough's team handling this includes the Bernards Township Health Department (the Borough's contractual health agency), the Office of Emergency Management, our First Responder agencies, Borough employees and Mayor and Council. We have taken the necessary steps to help flatten the curve include closing Borough Hall to the public while remaining open for business, putting Borough employees on staggered shifts to help minimize being close together while maintaining the vital services they provide to the public, and closing our playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts and municipal gym to the public.

Our Emergency Management officials have been working with their County and State partners to assist with the acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), disinfectant and cleaning supplies to keep our employees and first responders safe and healthy.

They have also been working with Matheny, a special hospital for children and adults with medically complex developmental disabilities with a population of 100 residents, to obtain PPE for the staff. Being a State licensed hospital that provides medical care for their residents they have an increased need for PPE. Like every other organization in the State who requires PPE, they are having difficulty in obtaining supplies.

Recently the Borough's Office of Emergency Management was able to assist with the delivery of 2 pallets of PPE supplied by Somerset County and NJ OEM. Matheny is also working through their vendors to continue to secure the necessary supplies.

The Borough has roughly 20 cases of COVID-19 with 1 fatality. Roughly half of those cases are at the Matheny facility. The staff at Matheny has been doing an excellent job of isolating those patients with the virus and many of their patients are showing

improvement in their condition. Matheny like all health care facilities in the State are not allowing outside visitors including the patients' family members.

While the town has seen an increase in COVID-19 patients since the middle of March this is to be expected as the number of cases has increased throughout the County and State from a month ago.

As of Wednesday April 8th, the Borough has kept its municipal parks open to the public as the State closed all County and State Parks. Parking has been limited at the Borough Parks to help keep down the number of people visiting at one time. It is hoped the public will rigorously self-enforce the social distancing measures required to avoid the spread of the virus. The Police Department will be checking regularly on the status of park use and park patrons' social distancing practices. If crowds become a problem as they were in County and State parks there will be no choice but to close the Borough Parks to the public.

Peapack Gladstone is borough in northern Somerset County with a population of 2600 people. For additional information or questions please contact Public Information Officer, Mayor Gregory Skinner.