

Dear Residents of Bradley Beach:

In response to the media coverage and information regarding COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) I'm providing this information to explain what we are doing in our community.

The Borough of Bradley Beach and the Office of Emergency Management are taking proactive measures to continually monitor all informational updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as our State and County Health Departments. Our highest priority has and will always be the safety of our residents, visitors and employees of the borough. We intend to provide all of the services that you have come to expect and have taken measures to target safety and sanitary practices as they directly relate to overall risk. It is very important to practice the following habits to protect yourself as well as others.

COVID-19 is believed to be spread the same way as a common cold or flu, through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes. Symptoms may include fever, cough and shortness of breath and are believed to occur within 2-14 days of exposure.

Best ways to protect yourself:

Covering your cough or sneeze.

Wash hands frequently and thoroughly.

Use a hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

Avoid touching your face, especially eyes, nose mouth and ears.

If you're like me, being asked to maintain "social distancing" and avoiding handshakes and hugs probably goes against your natural instinct, but it is unquestionably the correct thing to do. If you have elderly neighbors or friends in Bradley Beach, it's possible that they could be afraid to come out of their house due to their being the most vulnerable to this virus. Reach out to them if you're going to the store to see if there is anything that they need or just to give them a friendly hello.

It's possible that more and more Bradley Beach public events will be postponed or canceled in the upcoming days and weeks. It's frustrating to have these community events not take place but while there are no reported Bradley Beach residents who have contracted the virus, most medical opinion is that it is just a matter of time.

The New Jersey Department of Health has set up a hotline for questions at 1-800-222-1222.

They have indicated that translators are available if needed.

Any resident in need of assistance may always contact the Bradley Beach Police Department at any time day or night at 732-775-6900.

Gary Engelstad

Mayor