



# Township of Branchburg

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[www.branchburg.nj.us](http://www.branchburg.nj.us)

March 22, 2020

Dear Neighbors:

I am writing with an update on Covid-19 cases in our community. On Friday, we had our first case of a resident who tested positive for the Covid-19 virus. Today, that number has increased to 5. Some of the new cases are family members of those previously identified as infected. The names, addresses and personal identifying information of patients cannot be released or shared with the community but it is important for you to know that our local and county health departments are actively involved with investigating each case. Infected persons and their families have been quarantined.

The Branchburg Health Department is the lead agency handling those who have been or are suspected of being infected with the virus. Our Health Department is working with the County Health Offices to investigate all cases involving a positive Covid-19 person, including all close contacts. If it is determined that a resident is in close contact with someone infected with Covid-19 the health departments will reach out to the affected parties. Close contact is considered being with a 6-foot radius of the person for a maximum duration of 10 minutes. If it has been determined that someone who tests positive for the virus has visited a local business, that business is being alerted to be disinfected.

As the state ramps up testing, we can expect to see more of our residents test positive for the virus. If one family member or member of the household is infected it is likely that other household members will also become infected. It is critical to be vigilant even in your own home.

Through new executive orders, Governor Murphy has announced a statewide Stay at Home Order and the Closure of all Non-Essential Retail Businesses. This executive order supersedes all local rules and county rules. You can read the executive order on the New Jersey website (<https://covid19.nj.gov>) or get link from the Branchburg Township website.

Our municipal operations continue to function, albeit at a reduced level. We have taken the steps to close playgrounds and other municipal facilities that may help transmit the virus. The open spaces of our parks remain open for your use – but we ask that people avoid congregating in large groups and use common sense when going out in public.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Practice Social Distancing
- Do not gather in groups of 5 or more.
- Check on your neighbors – ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY – do what you can to help each other.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often!
- Go to our website – [www.branchburg.nj.us](http://www.branchburg.nj.us) – for information, updates and access to municipal services

This is a challenging time and an opportunity for our community to come together in this crisis. We will continue to communicate as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Thomas Young, Mayor  
Branchburg Township