



**For Immediate Release  
October 5, 2020**

**BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP** - From the inception of the Coronavirus crisis in March of this year, the Bedminster Township Committee has consistently supported the federal and state health guidelines to reduce the risk of transmitting the novel coronavirus – practice social distancing whenever possible, wear a mask when social distancing is not practicable, and wash hands with soap or use hand sanitizers. We continue to repeat these guidelines at our meetings, and we do employ them in the township offices and have incorporated them in our daily lives.

We urge our residents and the visitors to our town to adhere to these guidelines. In most situations, adherence to the guidelines is required under Governor Murphy's Executive Orders. In those limited situations where the Executive Orders do not require strict adherence, such as religious services or political activity (pursuant to EO 152), the guidelines should still be regarded as good common-sense. Mask-wearing is not a 100% guaranteed prophylactic, but it is one of the very few defenses we have right now to reduce the spread of the virus. The inconvenience of mask-wearing seems minor if it can help slow down the transmission rate, keep the curve flattened and, in turn, allow our economy to recover from this crisis.

We have heard from the Somerset County Department of Health that the White House and the Trump National Golf Club are cooperating with the contact tracing efforts resulting from President Trump's Thursday afternoon fundraising event. We understand that the state is performing the contact tracing for the attendees at the event and the County Department of Health is following up with the club staff. The Health Officer reports that nearly all staff working the event have been contacted and have been advised of the appropriate recommendations. We are not aware whether Bedminster residents were in attendance or working Thursday's fundraiser. The results of contact tracing are confidential, and the Township governing body and administration are not provided with those details.

As of this afternoon, Somerset County identifies Bedminster as having a total of 58 laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the crisis began. That number does not include positive cases reported through rapid or antigen testing. We have not seen a spike that is attributable to the rallies or protests along Route 206, we have not seen a spike that is attributable to having kept our parks open and available to the public, and, we have not seen a spike associated with outdoor or indoor dining. We hope these trends continue.

For those who believe they may have had exposure to the virus or have attended any large gathering, the County Health Department offers the following recommendations:

1. You should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the date of the event and if you become symptomatic, immediately isolate and contact your health care provider.

2. If you are concerned that you were in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) with an individual who has tested positive, you should quarantine for 14 days. If you become symptomatic, contact your health care provider
3. Consider getting tested if you are concerned about possible exposure; if you wish to be tested, consider waiting at least 5-7 days from the date of the event. While the risk is low, a negative test at that time cannot definitively rule out that COVID-19 will not develop.
4. Contact your health care provider if you are concerned about your health.

Once again, on behalf of Bedminster Township, we wish the President and First Lady and all who are affected with COVID-19 a full and speedy recovery.

Larry Jacobs, Mayor & the Bedminster Township Committee