



THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER

100 COMMONS WAY
BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807-2447
908/725-6300 EXT 5001 / FAX 908/725-3192
email: mayor@bridgewaternj.gov

MATTHEW C. MOENCH
Mayor

To all citizens and persons within the Township of Bridgewater in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, and to all departments, divisions, bureaus, and sections thereof.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the powers delegated to the Township of Bridgewater pursuant to Chapter 251 of the laws of 1942, as amended and supplemented, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq., N.J.S.A. 40:48-1(6) et seq., N.J.S.A. 2C:33-1 et seq., whichever law or laws apply, and by the ordinances adopted by the Township of Bridgewater, and to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the residents thereof and for the protection of the resource of said municipality, we hereby declare that a local emergency exists within the jurisdiction of the Township of Bridgewater; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-33.1(1) defines "emergency" as "any unusual incident resulting from natural or unnatural causes which endangers the health, safety or resources of the residents of one or more municipalities of the State, and which is or may become too large in scope or unusual in type to be handled in its entirety by regular municipal operating services;"

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.5 permits the municipal emergency management coordinator, pursuant to the aforementioned authority, to promulgate such orders, rules, and regulations as are necessary to meet the various problems which have or may be presented by such an emergency; and

WHEREAS, by reason of onset of COVID-19, and the need to take proactive mitigation measures to prevent the dispersion thereof, the need for government operations to address the potential spread of said virus which may further adversely affect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township of Bridgewater presently exists; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a state of emergency shall be declared within the boundaries of the Township of Bridgewater pursuant to the authority and under the provisions of N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq., with said authority and provisions incorporated herein by reference and to be effective within the entirety of the aforementioned municipality; and

WHEREAS, it has further been determined that such a declaration, and dissemination of the information related to operational changes of the Township in Bridgewater in response to the aforementioned emergency, are necessary for the orderly and transparent administration of Bridgewater's municipal government;

THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH the aforementioned laws and such other statutes, regulations, ordinances, and other sources of law as may be relevant and applicable, it is hereby promulgated and declared that the following regulations shall be in addition to all other laws of the State of New Jersey, the County of Somerset, and the Township of Bridgewater, and shall complement and supplement any other regulations issued by any federal, state, or local authority of competent jurisdiction:


- 1) The Township of Bridgewater, and each department, division, bureau or section thereof, shall continue normal operations with the emergency modifications as herein mandated.
- 2) The Municipal Offices of the Township of Bridgewater shall operate on a staff-only basis and shall be closed to the general public. Those seeking to conduct business with the Township are encouraged to communicate with either the Township Administration or the relevant department of municipal government for guidance on how to proceed. Each department will continue its operations to serve the needs of Township residents and will be available by phone. Appointments with relevant staff can be requested as mandated above and shall be considered on an individual basis and scheduled at the discretion of the appropriate department director.
- 3) The Bridgewater Township Department of Finance shall waive the Township's online payment fee for e-check payment of property taxes by Bridgewater Township property owners until April 30, 2020. This waiver applies to fees assessed by the Township only.
- 4) Until further notice, all building inspections under the jurisdiction of the Department of Municipal Services shall generally be limited to exterior inspections, vacant building inspections, inspections for properties presently under construction, and inspections for pending or anticipated real estate transactions, with all such inspections to be conducted at the absolute discretion of the Director Municipal Services or his designee.
- 5) Until further notice, all health inspections shall be limited to registered complaints pursuant to the Health Officer's statutory and regulatory authority.
- 6) The Regular Meeting of the Bridgewater Township Council presently scheduled for March 31, 2020 will be conducted as currently scheduled, subject to further consultation and coordination with Council President Norgalis. The Township Council's Agenda Session presently scheduled for March 27, 2020 will be cancelled.
- 7) The meetings of all other boards, committees, and commissions of the Township of Bridgewater, including but not limited to the meeting of the Bridgewater Township Zoning Board of Adjustment presently scheduled for March 17, 2020 and the meeting of the Bridgewater Township Planning Board, presently scheduled for March 24, 2020, shall be canceled through March 31, 2020.
- 8) Parks and recreational facilities under the operation and control of the Bridgewater Township Parks Department shall operate as normal but be restricted to groups of ten (10) individuals congregating jointly for the purpose of recreation. The only exception to the foregoing is the portion of Slattery Park located on the premises of 100 Commons

Way known as "Kids Street," which, due to the interactive nature of the equipment present thereat, shall be closed indefinitely.

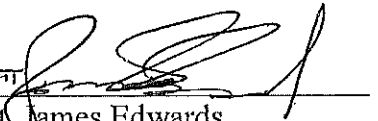
- 9) All programs sponsored by the Bridgewater Township Division of Recreation shall be canceled through March 31, 2020. Any resident who has registered for a program affected by this cancelation and submits a request for a refund to the Division of Recreation shall have their participation fee refunded thereby.
- 10) Spring recreation programs (those programs or activities commencing on April 1, 2020 or thereafter), will be evaluated in the coming weeks with further updates provided to residents as more information becomes available.
- 11) The Bridgewater Township Senior Citizens Center shall be closed until March 31, 2020.
- 12) In compliance with the order of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Municipal Court of the Township of Bridgewater shall conduct no sessions until April 7, 2020, but the administrative offices thereof shall remain in operation pursuant to the terms of this order.
- 13) Bridgewater Township will move to an email-only response system for records requested under the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., and temporarily suspend the physical copy of records until March 31, 2020.

IN FURTHER ACCORDANCE THEREWITH, these restrictions shall take effect at 5:00 PM EST on March 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect, in whole or in part, until such time as this state of emergency is rescinded pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq.; and

IN FURTHER ACCORDANCE THEREWITH, the Township of Bridgewater hereby reserves the right to amend the foregoing by further declaration consistent with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq.



Matthew C. Moench
Mayor



Sgt. James Edwards
O.E.M. Coordinator (Acting)

Date: March 16, 2020
Time: 16:30 hours