



An Update from the Town of Morristown Council and Mayor on COVID-19

The Town of Morristown is working to notify parents and employees of a positive case of COVID-19 in a Morris County resident who works at the Shalom Yeladim Nursery School. The nursery school is located at 177 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ.

The Town of Morristown is working with Shalom Yeladim Nursery School Administration to notify parents and employees who may have had contact with the employee. Children and employees are asked to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days. Persons who develop symptoms are urged to call their healthcare provider. The building has been closed to permit for cleaning and disinfection in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

“I’m saddened to hear that this serious disease has now affected members of our immediate community,” said Mayor Timothy Dougherty from Morristown. “The impact on these families and this house of worship should remind us that we cannot anticipate how this virus might directly impact anyone. We remind everyone to heed the recommendations of our health officials by taking precautions and practicing social distancing.”

What is COVID-19?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that include the common cold as well as much more serious diseases. The strain that emerged in China in late 2019, now called COVID-19, is related to others that have caused serious outbreaks in recent years, including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the U.S. was on Jan. 21.

The disease, which apparently originated in animals, is now transferring from person to person, although the mechanism is not yet fully understood. Its symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath, and many patients develop pneumonia. There is as yet no vaccine against COVID-19 and no antiviral treatment.

According to the CDC, the best way of preventing the disease is to avoid close contact with people who are sick, to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and to use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available.

To avoid spreading any respiratory illness, the CDC recommends staying at home when you are sick, covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throwing the tissue in the trash, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. You should only wear a mask if a health care professional recommends it. A face mask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms. This is to protect others from the risk of getting infected. The use of face masks also is crucial for health workers and other people who are taking care of someone infected with COVID-19 in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

For additional information on COVID-19, please visit the New Jersey Department of Health website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> and CDC at <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>. Residents who have questions about the virus can also contact the State of New Jersey's hotline at 1 (800) 222-1222. The hotline is home of the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System and is staffed 24 hours a day by state health workers.