

April 6, 2020

A Note from Mayor Joanne Minichetti:

I want to thank everyone for staying the course and following proper social distancing protocols when out for essential needs: work, groceries or medications. Staying six feet apart from others is the minimum recommendation. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has now issued a recommendation to the public to use cloth face coverings in community settings to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 by people infected who do not know it. Covering your face with a cloth mask or scarf when out is also a reminder to not touch your face. For the latest updates and information on how to protect yourself and what to do if you think you are sick, visit www.coronavirus.gov. We all play a key role in helping to slow the virus' spread.

Please adhere to the social distancing guidelines through the upcoming holidays. Celebrate wisely – virtual gatherings with family, a drive-by greeting or Facetime calls with minimal shopping trips will have to suffice this year. I know how difficult this is but holiday dinners or visits, however well intended, can result in further spread. Local houses of worship are offering on-line services. Difficult sacrifices made in the next month or two will help prevent many illnesses and deaths.

As of April 5th, the State had 37,505 cases with 4,482 announced in just one day, Sunday, April 5th. The State has 4,000 hospitalized who have tested positive with Covid-19. There have been 917 deaths related to coronavirus in NJ, with 189 in Bergen County. These statistics are frightening and our hospitals and health professionals are risking their own health and that of their families to care for an unprecedented amount of critically ill patients. The shortage of medical supplies continues. We must not let our guard down. We have been told the next few weeks/month will be critical. Now, more than ever, it is time to self-quarantine and stay home.

As of April 5th, Upper Saddle River has 35 confirmed cases of coronavirus. Although the number will undoubtedly increase, I am confident without the cooperation of our residents, it would already be much higher. There has been some misreporting from the State and the County. Obviously with the large number of cases confirmed each day, a very challenging task. Last week I brought to the County Executive and Governor's attention that test results from Upper Saddle River and Saddle River have been confused. Accurate and timely reporting is imperative for the sake of our emergency responders. They assured me this would be corrected immediately.

For those interested in donating to Meal Train, providing meals to healthcare workers and first responders, visit <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/g4wlol?fbclid=IwAR0C1weAcran21Uxe8soFP58nlpRG3e0VFTqMkUaj9zT-R1JxlyxtZk88Fc> for more information. At the same time, you will be supporting local restaurants. To assist USR families in need, please email me at jminichetti@usrtoday.org, or visit <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/l1mkgm?fbclid=IwAR300bu3vjdU1D4lFzBbFPPr>

zzT1tc3HMmevnWJg8m28q0dTowfWBWmHwZYto sign up to provide a meal. So many are offering to help and we appreciate every one of you.

Thank you to our USR Volunteer Fire Department for offering drive-by birthday shoutouts to children who are celebrating their birthdays during this difficult time. It was showcased on CBS News the other night. The link to the video is below:

https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2020/04/04/coronavirus-firetruck-birthday-celebrations/?fbclid=IwAR2AYjumm7tgq1LWWq_n1NK5QD4y8EgSPPadNt160z1fM4aQrf3E

Please continue to send in photos of posters or chalk drawings thanking our healthcare professionals, grocery store and delivery workers and our emergency responders to the Upper Saddle River Police Department's Facebook page via messenger. Let's share our gratitude and help make someone's day a bit brighter.

For anyone needing assistance, please email me at jminichetti@usrtoday.org. I have a list of volunteers willing to assist our residents in crisis. All of the financial assistance being offered, on federal and state levels, as well as resources for domestic violence and mental health resources, are on our website, www.usrtoday.org. Just click on Coronavirus Information on the home page.

Stay strong. Stay safe. Be well. We will get through this together.

Joanne Minichetti