



# TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Lawrence Township Health Department

2019 Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)  
March 3, 2020

The Lawrence Township Health Department is working in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to monitor the expanding outbreak of COVID-19 globally. The health department has implemented public health interventions at the local level as recommended by the NJDOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in order to minimize the impact on the community. Currently, the risk to the general public in New Jersey remains low with no local cases reported. However, the expanding cases in other countries is a concern and it is advised by the CDC and the NJDOH that people prepare for the potential public health threat here in the United States. Please note this situation is evolving and public health recommendations and guidance will change as the new information is received.

In recent weeks, the Lawrence Township Health Department has taken the following steps to address the COVID-19:

- Shared educational materials, preparedness materials and guidance information with partners in the community including first responders, childcare facilities, senior groups, long-term care facilities and community organizations.
- Coordinated with school administrations, both non-public schools and public schools to review guidance documents and prevention education materials.
- Responded to concerns in the community from residents, businesses and community groups.
- Contacted travelers returning from affected areas to conduct risk assessments and symptom monitoring for a 14 day period after leaving the affected areas and returning to the U.S. This procedure is conducted in accordance with protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and the New Jersey Department of Health.
- Consulted with medical professionals upon request. The Department has responded 24/7 and will maintain availability.
- Enhanced preparedness within the Department through trainings, webinars and shared information.

Individuals, families and organizations are encouraged to:

- Remain informed on the current status and recommendations throughout the outbreak. Links to the Centers for Disease Control and the New Jersey Department of Health websites are available on the Township website at [www.lawrencetwp.com](http://www.lawrencetwp.com).
- Monitor travel restrictions if you are planning a trip at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- If you have recently traveled to an affected region, follow public health requirements and guidance upon your return.
- If you have traveled within 14 days and become ill, contact your healthcare provider by telephone, report your symptoms and your recent travel before seeking care.
- Review your family preparedness plan. For more information on preparedness please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html>

Additional health interventions may be necessary in some circumstances; however, individuals can help prevent the spread of COVID-2019 and other diseases by practicing basic infection control on a daily basis.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissues after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Stay home when you are sick.

For the most up-to-date and credible information, please monitor the websites listed below or call the NJDOH COVID-19 Hotline, 24/7, at 1-800-222-1222.

[www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov)

[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

[www.lawrencetwp.com](http://www.lawrencetwp.com)

The Lawrence Township Health Department can be reached at (609) 844- 7089 for additional information.