

Joint Statement COVID-19

March 4, 2020

4:19 PM

The Township Committee and Board of Education in conjunction with our Township Emergency Services Volunteers have been meeting for weeks preparing to deal with the potential impact of the virus COVID-19 in our community. Health Officer Stephanie Carey has spearheaded our efforts in establishing the proper protocols for handling potential COVID-19 cases. The Township is in daily contact with County, State, and Federal authorities gathering the latest data on how best to handle the potential impact of this illness.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can range in severity from asymptomatic or mild illness to severe illness. Risk factors for severe illness are not yet clear, although older patients and those with chronic medical conditions may be at higher risk for severe illness.

We are asking that, if you or a member of your family is experiencing cold or flu like symptoms, stay home. Students who exhibit any of these symptoms will be sent home from school. The Health Department is monitoring individuals who are at elevated risk for developing COVID-19, and has the authority to order restrictions to protect the public should this become necessary.

If a student has recently traveled to a country where the CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Alert, they should stay home from school for 14 days and monitor their health. School closings, if they become necessary, will be determined through consultation with the Health Department and the State Department of Education.

We have attached talking points that have been prepared by Montgomery Township's Public Health Nurse Katie Williams for our School district and our residents. They will provide you with additional information on how to best prevent the potential spread of this virus and how to respond if you begin to develop symptoms. Since this is a rapidly evolving situation, guidance will regularly be updated at <https://health.montgomery.nj.us/covid19/>.

The Township and Board of Education will continue to work together to attempt to reduce the potential impact of this virus.

Montgomery is a diverse and dynamic community. We would like to emphasize the importance of rejecting discrimination or harassment of any kind as we face this global issue.