



Borough of Hightstown

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Health Department Covid-19 Update May 14, 2020

The Health Department continues to receive and investigate reports of new cases of Covid-19. As testing becomes more available and the existing restrictions are lifted, we expect this work to continue. The Health Department has added and trained additional staff to assist with investigations, contact tracings and translations. The work follows guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is coordinated with public health systems at the state and local levels. These efforts have been supported by Hightstown Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Rise, Hightstown Police Department, and Borough Administration.

During the Covid response, the Health Department has refocused our full team to preventing the spread of Covid and the non-essential functions of the Department have been put on hold. Outreach to local food establishments has been conducted to review Covid prevention guidance and encourage safe practices. Priority inspections and services have been provided throughout this outbreak on a case by case basis. We will continue to evaluate the evolving status of the community and pivot our priorities as appropriate.

The Borough OEM has partnered with Mercer County to offer a Hightstown walk-up test site, also referred to as a "Pop-up Test Site" starting Friday, May 8, 2020 in the parking lot of St. Anthony of Padua Church. The site is an extension of the Mercer County OEM test site held daily at Quakerbridge Mall. **The County requires appointments prior to visits to this site.** The County has coordinated the medical professionals to perform specimen collection and delivery. St. Anthony's leadership graciously offered the use of the parking lot as a convenient site. This site will continue based on utilization. Please help spread the word to community members that are experiencing symptoms.

Over the coming weeks, we expect to learn about changes to the statewide restrictions. It is important to continue to take care to follow public health restrictions as we enjoy the warmer weather and increase our activities outside the home. Follow guidance posted by businesses to help protect their employees as well as the customers; avoid crowded locations and maintain 6-foot separations from others; plan for quick visits while out in public locations; wear a mask while in public places where close interactions are likely; wash hands often and keep hand sanitizer handy. Most importantly, continue to remain at home if you feel ill or have been exposed to someone who is ill. Everyone must do their part to help control the spread of this virus!

The following links are sources for local, state, national and global data.

Local : <https://mercernj.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/6a9746e0df254b7bb56083d827972321>

New Jersey: www.covid19.nj.gov

National & Global : <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

The Health Department can be reached at 609-936-8400 for additional information.