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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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March 30, 2020

Dear Verona Residents:

This afternoon, the Montclair Health Department updated the number of residents of Verona who have tested positive with novel Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to seventeen (17). This includes eight (8) additional cases since our latest update on Saturday.

To protect personal health information, federal and state regulations bar us from being able to disclose additional information about the individuals and confirm specific information even if other entities choose to make their own announcements.

Verona has been fortunate to have experienced one of the lowest rates of cases in Essex County over the past several weeks. However, the almost 100% increase in cases over the past two days is clear evidence that our town is not immune to the rapid community spread of COVID-19. The data demonstrates that our community must not only continue its vigilance with respect to social distancing and responsible decision making, but also strengthen this approach. We call upon all residents to make deliberate efforts to minimize interpersonal contact outside your home unless it is absolutely necessary in order to fulfill essential personnel roles and to ensure matters of family safety and security. **Simply put, STAY HOME! Do not go to the park, or to visit friends and family who do not live with you.**

The actions of all of our residents affect the community as a whole. When making decisions, please consider the effects they have on your families, neighbors, and our police, EMS, and fire departments who must continue to provide services to the Township in any conditions. Please stay home.

The hospital system in Essex County and surrounding areas has become increasingly strained due to the community spread of COVID-19. Please remember that in non-emergent situations, your first call should be to your primary care provider for guidance on how to proceed. A hospital visit for those without emergent symptoms not guarantee that one will be tested, and can cause a greater burden on the healthcare system.

Please continue to check in on your family members and neighbors. We ask that you help us to ensure that Verona is continuing to lead the way during this critical period.

Take care,

MATTHEW CAVALLO

Township Manager

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

