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April 10, 2020

Dear Verona Community:

I hope that all Verona families are safe and healthy during this holiday week. We greatly appreciate the sacrifices that families are making by not assembling for these significant religious holidays in order to maintain the social distance required to curtail the spread of COVID-19. This commitment will serve to lessen the impact of the virus on our community.

While there are stories of triumph during this time, we are no less affected by the tragedy of this pandemic. It is with great sadness that must I share that Verona lost a third resident this week due to complications associated with the 2019 novel Coronavirus. This loss occurring during this time of year compounds the tragedy for the family and the greater Verona community. We mourn together with the family who is suffering so greatly.

For privacy reasons, we cannot release the identities of deceased community members or those of their families. We ask that you follow the same practice on social media until the families are ready for this information to be public. Please respect their needs during this difficult time.

Our Township has demonstrated great unity over the past several weeks through grassroots efforts to flatten the curve, support our healthcare providers, recognize and supply our emergency services, support grieving families, and demonstrate loyalty to the local businesses that are the backbone of this community. I am certain that all Verona families will continue to support those who are experiencing loss, illness, and unexpected life changes. This is this the Verona we know and love. We define ourselves not by the challenge but by our response and enduring resilience.

Since our update on April 3, test-confirmed positive cases in Verona have increased by 57%. Please continue to be vigilant about maintain social distancing and limiting unnecessary travel. Residents wishing to view frequently updated statistical information for Verona and Essex County may visit <https://essexcountynj.org/covid-19-municipality/>.

In the last week, the State of New Jersey has enacted additional orders related to grocery store capacity, wearing of face coverings while at grocery stores, limiting certain construction projects, and regulations on manufacturing. Please visit the New Jersey COVID-19 resource page at <https://covid19.nj.gov/> for detailed, plain language explanations of recent executive and administrative orders and resources for individuals and businesses facing challenges as a result of the pandemic.

I wish you peace and health during this holiday season. Please continue to keep in your thoughts our emergency services personnel, healthcare workers, and essential personnel as they must continue to serve while others may remain in the safety of their homes.

Most respectfully,


MATTHEW CAVALLO
Township Manager