

**Village of Great Neck Plaza Statement on Coronavirus from Mayor Jean Celender
Dated: March 17, 2020**

This is an important update on the coronavirus for the Village of Great Neck Plaza. As you may already know Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has mandated a State of Emergency for New York State. As a locality in New York State we are following directives from the state and giving our residents and constituents an updated report pertaining to your local government here in the Plaza. Circumstances are changing daily, and sometimes more often, as the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 are tracked and persons suspected of having contracted the virus are being testing, which has been started in the state.

As per Governor's Executive Order on March 16th, our local village elections have been delayed to primary Election Day, April 28, 2020. Governor Cuomo has also mandated operation of nonessential personnel statewide starting today, March 17th. This means, all local governments, including the Village of Great Neck Plaza, shall reduce our workforce by 50 percent and allow nonessential employees to go home and work from home.

Governor Cuomo, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont announced a regional approach to combating the novel coronavirus – or COVID-19 – throughout the tri-state area. These uniform standards will limit crowd capacity for social and recreational gatherings to 50 people, effective 8 p.m. on March 16th. This followed updated guidance that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued recommending the cancellation or postponement of in-person events consisting of 50 people or more.

The three governors also announced restaurants and bars will be closed for on premise service and move to take-out and delivery services only. These establishments will be provided a waiver for carry-out alcohol. These measures took effect at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 16th.

Finally, the three governors said they will temporarily close movie theaters, gyms and casinos, also effective at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 16. This uniform approach to social distancing is

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meant to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Thus, the Squire Cinemas of Great Neck has been closed.

As a local government in the State of New York we must have the same policy as the state. Why? Otherwise, Governor Cuomo has indicated that we would be creating the same problem that the federal government is creating. Albany's set of rules, must match Schenectady's, etc. This applies to the Village of Great Neck Plaza, because otherwise, people will be confused and will get in their car and drive to a different jurisdiction.

The Village of Great Neck Plaza Village Hall is **closed** effective today, March 17th, 2020 at 1 p.m., following the Governor's executive orders and brief briefings.

Village Hall will be open for half a day starting tomorrow; March 18 for limited services, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., through a vestibule box inside the front doors. The doors will be locked. You may see there's a limited number of staff that will be on the premises (the workforce has been substantially reduced according the Governor's executive order).

The limited village activities that can be processed through the vestibule box are as follows:

- permit applications for the Building Department,
- parking permits, e.g. street permits and commercial permits for the two structured parking garages
- summons payments (by check and money order only – parking tickets can be paid online and we encourage payments through this manner),
- real estate tax payments, and
- correspondence may be placed in the box. (Correspondence to info@greatneckplaza.net, and mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net and obyrnep@greatneckplaza.net .) These emails will continue to be monitored and responded to as appropriate.

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Do **not** leave cash for the above activities in the vestibule box. We will **only** accept checks or money orders for payment.

Do not lick envelopes! Please leave envelopes open or closed with a paper clip or binder clip.

All deliveries (FedEx, UPS, Staples and other vendors) through the Dept. of Public Works entrance further south on Gussack Plaza. Only DPW will be receiving packages via their separate driveway and entrance. No deliveries will be allowed through the front doors.

Street cleaning restrictions have been suspended until further notice.

Alternate side of the street parking restrictions have been suspended until further notice.

We have also postponed all Board of Trustees meetings, Board of Zoning Appeals meetings, Historic Preservation Committee meetings through March 31, subject to further closures. As per the Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York, all Village court matters are postponed until further notice.

Learn more about New York State's response to coronavirus, from visiting their **[dedicated website at: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/)**

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is working with our partners at New York State. We have requested 8,000 masks to be made available to us for distribution, should it be a necessary precaution. We are letting our workers know what to do, and how to act, should they feel sick and what precautions are being told to localities from New York State. The State is immediately beginning to work with hospitals to help them replicate the State's FDA-approved test and reach our goal of 1,000 tests per day. Additionally, the State is instituting new cleaning protocols at schools and in public transportation.

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Symptoms. If you have symptoms and have recently traveled to China, Iran, or at-risk areas in Italy and South Korea, or if you have been in close contact with someone who has, you should seek medical care right away from your primary care physician. Call ahead and explain your symptoms and where you have travelled. Note your symptoms; symptoms of the Coronavirus are similar to the flu, and include coughing, fever and trouble breathing.

Prevention: There are simple steps we can all take to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, like your cell phone.

New Yorkers can call the Department of Health's coronavirus hotline at 1-888-364-3065 with any concerns about symptoms or travel. In addition, visit the Department of Health's [dedicated website at: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/) for more resources and updates about COVID-19.

We expect there to be more positive cases, but rest assured that New York State and your local government, the Village of Great Neck Plaza, are taking all necessary actions to contain the potential spread of this virus.

As the global health emergency relating to the COVID-19 outbreak continues to affect co-workers and others around the world, we recently activated a Preparedness Team with our Department Heads to coordinate a Village response in a coordinated fashion as a Village

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Family and in coordination with other Great Neck Peninsula Villages through conference call briefings with State Senator Anna Kaplan.

Our Preparedness Team is meeting daily to ensure we consider the most up-to-date information from public health agencies and government authorities, share key data and best practices with our staff, and ensure we are taking appropriate steps to protect the health and safety of all of our people while continuing to meet the needs of our residents and businesses on “Main Street.”

Among the priority items, we are addressing the following:

- * testing our IT crisis communications infrastructure;
- * ensuring our IT infrastructure can support co-workers that can work remotely should that become necessary;
- * developing and testing contingency measures to ensure some limited amount of the normal continuation of business operations because of public health concerns and/or government authorities mandate of business interruptions;
- * reviewing upcoming Village-sponsored events to determine if any cancellation or postponement is advisable based on the latest information from public health and government agencies;
- * sharing best practices and potential policies to guide employee self-quarantine and employee and visitor office access measures;
- * supporting our local teams in developing and implementing tailored workplace, office access, human resources, flexible working and related policies that comply with local law and regulations; and
- * monitoring the action steps of our co-workers and peers, including recent cancellations of Board meetings, Court dates and Village-sponsored events.

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As appropriate, the Preparedness Team will post updates online to advise the public of new findings and up-to-date closures and changes as a result of testing and new cases of COVID-19 that may develop. We will do our utmost to connect you with local resources to assist with your inquiry.

Right now the emphasis is about taking all measures to slow the spread of this virus and pandemic. Governor Cuomo has emphasized that frequent hand washing, social distancing (maintaining a distance from another person of 6 feet or more) and self-quarantining at home are the best ways to do that. Please remain calm, safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Mayor Jean A. Celender,
Village of Great Neck Plaza