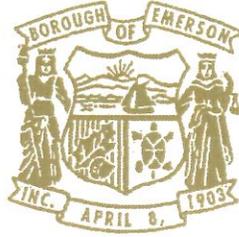


# Office of the Mayor

**Danielle DiPaola**  
Mayor



1 Municipal Place  
Emerson, NJ 07630  
(201) 262-6086  
mayor@emersonnj.org

Hi. This is Mayor Danielle DiPaola with a message about the current health crisis. You may also view this message on the Borough website or Twitter. As Mayor, I recognize that during this crisis my role in providing public health information is more important than ever. That is why I have been in constant communication with our local health officer. The number of positive COVID-19 cases as of today, April 15, 2020, has exceeded the number 100. Since the onset of this health crisis, eleven people have succumbed to this disease in our Borough. I ask you to please keep the family and friends of the deceased in your thoughts and prayers. As you know, Emerson is home to three long term care facilities where, unfortunately, most of the reported positives and deaths have occurred. If you remove the three long term care facility numbers from the totals reported, you will find the statistics more proportionally in line with other municipalities of our size. As we are not permitted to know the exact number of cases in each long term care facility or the names or addresses of anyone who has tested positive with COVID-19 due to strict HIPAA laws, we are unable to come up with a completely accurate picture of how many Emerson residents have been affected by the virus so far.

I am aware that some municipalities and elected officials are providing daily reports of presumptive positives as well as those who have recovered. I will not be making daily reports but will provide updates on a periodic basis. I have consulted with Angela Musella, our Health Officer, and we have decided that since there is no standardized way of obtaining and assessing information, we will not be publishing the number of presumptive positive cases or recoveries daily. Health officers do not have the capability to follow residents on an ongoing basis to determine these statistics. But I can say that many COVID-19 cases are in the recovery phase.

In the meantime, in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, please follow these steps:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, then use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid contact with others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

Currently there are no vaccines available to prevent COVID-19 infections. There is no specific treatment for COVID-19 either. Most people with mild COVID-19 illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some people may develop pneumonia and need medical care or treatment in a hospital. As always, if you feel sick, contact your primary care physician or dial 911 if it is an emergency. If you are feeling sick you should not be out in the community, except to get medical care. Please stay home.

If you require more information please visit the borough website or <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

*“The Family Town”*

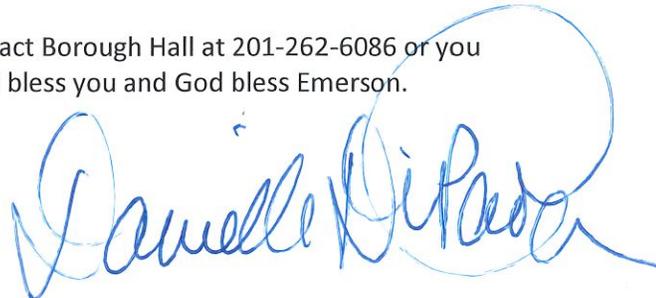
If you are well, please continue to follow the stay at home order of our governor except for necessary essentials such as obtaining food or medication. Please refrain from meeting friends and family for social distancing get togethers or parties. We are all looking forward to getting our lives back to normal and seeing our friends and family, but now is not that time. If you would like further information, please go to the borough website where there is a COVID-19 tab as well as many links for assistance. Also, if you or someone you know had COVID-19 and recovered, you can help save the life of someone critically ill from this virus.

Eligible patients may volunteer to donate blood, which will be screened for the presence of the disease's antibodies. Antibody-rich plasma can then be transferred into COVID-19 patients whose conditions are considered severe or life-threatening.

For more information, please visit our borough website or <https://covidserum.com/valley-health-system>

In conclusion, if you must go out, you are required to wear either a mask or facial covering and it is suggested that you also wear gloves as well as keeping in mind the rules of social distancing especially in smaller retail locations.

In the meantime, if you need further information, please contact Borough Hall at 201-262-6086 or you may contact me at 201-509-1534. Be smart, stay healthy. God bless you and God bless Emerson.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danielle DiPaola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular flourish at the end.