

South Harrison Township



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From the office of the Mayor,
4/15/20

I hope everyone had a happy and peaceful Passover and Easter. Many were very creative in inventing new ways to celebrate, while others held true to traditions as best they could.

New social distancing directives from the Governor now require face masking/coverings in all public spaces for employees, customers, and the general public. Surgical face masks and N95 respirators are critically low in short supply and should be reserved for critical first responders and healthcare workers, as recommended by CDC guidance. I am aware, however, that a few towns have somehow secured masks and elected to distribute them to their residents and one town secured masks through a corporate donation.

For weeks now, the Gloucester County Emergency Management Response Center has been in desperate need of PPE donations of any kind for healthcare workers, police, firefighters, EMT's and all critical Tier 1 first responders. If South Harrison were to acquire any critical PPE equipment through corporate or private industry donations, we would ensure that the PPE is donated to the brave men and women caring for our well-being while potentially exposing themselves and/or their families.

Although many residents have inquired as to whether South Harrison will issue masks directly to residents, we are not in possession of critical PPE, which again is in low supply and to be reserved for healthcare workers and critical Tier 1 first responders. The best recommended face covering, as described below is a cloth face mask for the general public.

CDC's information on Masks:

N95 Respirators Not for Use by the General Public

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend that the general public wear N95 respirators to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including coronavirus (COVID-19). Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for health care workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance. Surgical masks and N95 respirators are not intended to be used more than once.

CDC Recommends Cloth Face Coverings for Use by the General Public

The CDC recommends that members of the public use simple cloth face coverings when in a public setting to slow the spread of the virus, since this will help people who may have the virus and do not know it, from transmitting it to others. A link to the CDC guideline on how to make and use cloth face coverings for the general public will be posted on the Township website.

Furthermore, cloth face coverings can be washed and reused.

Thank you again to all the first responders, nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals going to work every day helping those in need of critical services. My thoughts and prayers also go out to all those who are being affected financially by this crisis.

Let's remain and keep positive thoughts and help each other and our neighbors though this difficult time.

Mayor Joseph M. Marino