

South Harrison Township



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Dear Residents,
4/28/20

Yesterday the Governor issued his press release explaining his plan to reopen New Jersey. Unfortunately, his proposal showed no clear path to normalcy anytime soon. While this virus does pose a very real risk, I feel the proposal is several weeks, if not a month behind what it should be based upon data evidencing the flattening of the curve. The plan is based on 6 principles, most of which I believe should have already been implemented, and other measures which I have serious concerns about as an elected official regarding funding considering the limited resources municipalities struggle with annually during the budget process.

Please understand that I am not making this a political issue and I have respected and followed all recommended protocols, AG Directives, and Executive Orders issued to date. As the Mayor and business owner in the Township, I was troubled and disappointed by the lack of clarity and guidance for the reopening of our state and municipality, which I understand is also discouraging for many of our residents in these uncertain times. While I can't take it upon myself to sway from the Executive Orders imposed upon all New Jersey residents, as your Mayor, I will be personally advocating for a more clear, concise, and responsible plan of action moving forward from the Governor.

Again, I want to personally thank all the residents and citizens in our community who are getting all of us through this difficult time such as the healthcare workers; first responders, including the police, fire, and EMS first line responders; teachers; and the businesses that have contributed to making donations of PPE and food to those in need. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the residents for your patience, diligence, and abiding by the directives instituted to date, in addition to the countless stories I have heard of neighbors assisting and checking on each other during this difficult time.

Better days are ahead,

Joseph Marino Mayor

The contents of Governor Murphy's April 27th statement is as follows:

Gov. Phil Murphy announced today that the state's stay-at-home order, which has been in effect since March 21st, will remain in effect in its entirety until further notice. He also announced "six principles and key metrics guiding the process for lifting restrictions and restoring New Jersey's economic health through public health."

"Our priority is to use science, data, and facts to put New Jersey on the road to recovery. In order to restore economic health, we must first promote public health," Murphy said. "These key principles and metrics are critical for giving New Jerseyans confidence that we will re-open our state with our public health protocols firmly in place and our health care system prepared. Restarting New Jersey's economy and returning people to work will be done methodically, strategically, and responsibly."

Below are the six principles outlined by the Governor:

Principle 1: Demonstrate Sustained Reductions in New COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations

- 14-day trend lines showing appreciable and sustained drop in new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and other metrics reflecting decreasing burden of disease;
- Hospitals stepping down from functioning under crisis standards of care.

Principle 2: Expand Testing Capacity

- At least double current diagnostic testing capacity;
- Prioritize testing for health care workers, essential personnel, and vulnerable populations;
- Create a flexible testing plan accessible to all residents;
- Expand partnerships with institutions of higher education, private-sector labs, and the federal Government.
- Ensure that those who test positive are linked to a health care provider.

Principle 3: Implement Robust Contact Tracing

- Recruit and deploy an army of personnel who will identify and follow-up with contacts;
- Leverage technological data and innovative solutions to increase efficiency;
- Coordinate the approach of local and state health officials, which will have a coordinated county/regional component.

Principle 4: Secure Safe Places and Resources for Isolation and Quarantine

- To the greatest extent possible, provide individuals who do test positive in the future with a safe and free place to isolate and protect others from COVID-19;
- Ensure that quarantined contacts are provided supportive services, if needed.

Principle 5: Execute a Responsible Economic Restart

- Create the Governor's Restart and Recovery Commission to advise on the process and recommend responsible and equitable decisions;
- Plan for a methodical and strategic return to work based on level of disease transmission risk and essential classification;
- Continuation of social distancing measures, requirements for face coverings, and work-from-home directions where feasible and appropriate;
- Leverage any available federal funds and programs to support health care, individual, and small business recoveries.

Principle 6: Ensure New Jersey's Resiliency

- Learn from the lessons of COVID-19 and prepare for the possibility of a resurgence;
- Ensure hospitals, health care systems, and other health delivery facilities have inventories of personal protective equipment and ventilators;
- Build our own state personal protective equipment and ventilator stockpile;
- Create a playbook for future administrations for the next pandemic.