

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE – MARCH 19

On today's daily Mayor's call with County officials, it was reported that there are now three confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Warren County. The two new cases are the first in the County classified as "community spread" meaning that the source of these infections is not known and these individuals did interact with others in their communities unaware that they were infected. Warren County Health Department is making an effort to identify the people who may have come into contact with the newly infected individuals and as soon as they do, those people will be contacted immediately by the Health Department and informed of the situation.

There is currently no timetable as to when testing kits will be available for the general public in Warren County. I also had a call with Representative Gottheimer this afternoon and the lack of test kits is a statewide issue. That being the case, the and best and only method for avoiding the virus at this time is Social Distancing. Stay home and limit your exposure to people outside of your immediate family.

As of this morning there were new 318 cases in the state for a total of 742 infections and 9 deaths. All of these numbers are expected to increase daily. In the absence of test kits and a vaccine, Social Distancing is by far the best prevention method that you and your families can practice.

As new guidelines and information are being published daily by the federal government, NJ, Warren County and the CDC, please check their websites every day for updates. Here are the web addresses for the key sources of updated information:

- CDC Coronavirus website - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>
- NJ State Coronavirus Hotline - 1-800-222-222
- NJ Department of Health – <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- Warren County - [www.Warren.nj.us/](http://www.Warren.nj.us/)

A number of Hardwick residents have contacted me offering assistance and asking how they can help. In response to those generous offers, we've set up a procedure with the Hardwick Seniors where any senior needing a ride or an errand run (such as shopping) can contact the Coordinator of the Hardwick Seniors who will in turn call someone on the list of volunteers. Depending on how serious this crisis becomes, there may be other volunteer type activities for which we may need to call upon the members of the Hardwick community for assistance. I don't want to sound overly alarmed but our town needs to actively plan for all possibilities rather than wait until the situation worsens. Toward that end, I'd like compile a list of volunteers to call upon if the situation calls for it down the road. Like the Boy Scouts, Hardwick wants to be prepared. If you are interested, please send me an email with your phone number. Hopefully, the pandemic will be under control in the not too distant future and we won't ever need to reach out.

*Kevin Duffy – Mayor*

*Al Carrazzone - Deputy Mayor*

*Jim Perry - Committeeman and President of the NJLM*