



# Borough of Hillsdale

380 Hillsdale Avenue • Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642  
201-666-4800x1520 • Fax: 201-358-5002 • Email: [jruocco@hillsdalenj.org](mailto:jruocco@hillsdalenj.org)  
John J. Ruocco, Mayor

March 25, 2020

My fellow residents, by now you probably are familiar with the Executive Order #107 issued by the Governor this past weekend. It can be read on line in its entirety at <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-107.pdf> Yesterday, an OEM Administrative Order was issued by the State declaring certain additional businesses to be “essential” and therefore allowable to be open. These included mobile phone retail & repair shops, bicycle service & repair shops, and nursery & garden centers.

At the moment, Hillsdale has two confirmed cases of the virus. By walking almost daily through the town, and speaking to residents and business owners, I know you are making significant efforts to comply with the Order. On behalf of the governing body, I thank you for your efforts as we try to meet this difficult and unprecedented challenge. I also thank all the residents who have volunteered to help in so many different ways.

We are being asked to change our normal way of life and not socialize or work in the way we are accustomed. This does not come easy to any of us. We are a nation of travelers, doers, used to engaging in community activities and active in our educational institutions, volunteer organizations, libraries, and sports programs. We are used to coming and going as we please, when we please. That has changed for the moment.

I must continue to ask that residents refrain from buying large amounts of goods in our supermarkets that cannot possibly be consumed in the near future. I also ask that you respect store practices which set aside a certain time in the early morning for our seniors to get food. They are most at risk when they shop in crowded stores.

I am acutely aware of how the local business community is suffering, and the threat posed to wage earners by the harmful and widespread economic effects that have begun to cascade upon us all. Please patronize our restaurants with your take-out orders. I have asked our Borough financial administrative staff to reexamine the proposed 2020 municipal budget to see how the governing body can eliminate any increase in the municipal tax rate this year, so as to provide some relief for our residents. I have suggested the same to our schools, over whom I have no direct control.

With the knowledge that all Borough employees, volunteer first responders, and the Mayor & Council are working hard to maintain essential services, I ask for your continued cooperation and understanding.