



TOWN of DOVER
Mayor Carolyn Blackman

EXECUTIVE ORDER # 3

Pursuant to Executive Order # 2 Establishing a State of Emergency in the Town of Dover, Morris County Pursuant to the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Management Directive No. 61 as it relates to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Closing of Municipal Parks as per the Municipal Excess Liability (MEL) Joint Insurance Fund Safety Institute

WHEREAS, The Town of Dover established a State of Emergency in the Town of Dover pursuant to Executive Order # 2; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to applicable law, as recited in Executive Order # 2, which authorizes the promulgation of Orders, Rules, and Regulations, and such Regulations are necessary to meet the various problems, which have or may occur due to such emergency; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the powers vested by Chapter 251 of the Laws of 1942, as amended and supplemented, J.J.S.A. APP. A:9-30 et seq.; N.J.S.A. 40:48-1(6); N.J.S.A. 2C:33-1 et seq.; whichever law or laws ex apply, including, the Code of the Town of Dover, a local disaster emergency is declared to exist within the boundaries of the Town of Dover; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order # 2 was approved by the Morris County Office of Emergency Management (OEM); and

WHEREAS, According to the MEL Safety Institute Bulletin, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's Emergency Declaration of March 16, 2020 placed a limit of 50 people for all social functions and "gatherings" due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The purpose of the Governor's action is to limit one to one contact in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus. This Declaration follows the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the Governor's Declaration, the Safety Director's office recommends that all recreational facilities including parks and playgrounds should be closed immediately and stay closed until the Governor lifts the Emergency Declaration; and

WHEREAS, The MEL Safety Institute Bulletin stated, "If an owner of a public park or playground chooses not to close recreational facilities and play areas, they need to be able to assure the public that their playgrounds will be closely monitored by their personnel,

including sanitizing all safety surfaces **several times daily**, and limiting the gathering of people to no less than 50 people at any one time. Due to the hurdles of fully documenting all the above actions, including enforcement, the Safety Director feels the most prudent course of risk control is to close parks and playgrounds.”; and

WHEREAS, After consultation with the Town administration, it has been determined the Town does not have the personnel and other resources to provide the public with the aforesaid assurances for their safety

NOW THEREFORE, Based upon the foregoing, the OEM Coordinator and the Mayor believe it is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the Town to amend that Order, specifically by repealing, rescinding, and replacing paragraph number 12, which Ordered that Town parks remain open, and in accordance with the aforesaid recitals and authority under all applicable law and Executive Order # 2, it is promulgated and declared that the following regulations shall be in addition to all other laws of the State of New Jersey and the Town of Dover, please be advised of the following Special Orders and Advisements:

1. All Municipal Parks are hereby closed to the public until further notice; and
2. Notice shall be provided on the Town website and shall be posted at the entrance to each facility; and
3. Appropriate personnel shall be assigned the responsibility to ensure the public is informed of this Order and in compliance with same

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY:

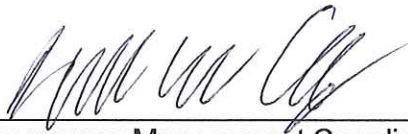
Because the COVID-19 virus has been deemed a pandemic, we recognize there will be disruption to Town services and access to Town Hall and other public buildings. Notwithstanding, as local government officials, public workers, volunteers and other contracting agencies and personnel, we will do our best to continue to provide essential services for the public good of our Town residents. We regret having to close or limit services normally provided to school children, parents, seniors, disabled persons and those who rely on Town resources. However, our Emergency Management Team will continue to monitor the public health emergency closely and is prepared respond to any contingencies that arise.

The Town will continue to provide residents with public service announcements as necessary using our “Smart911 reverse” call service and will maintain our website and social media with updates as they become available. Please visit our website at :

- <https://www.facebook.com/townofdovernj/>
- <https://www.dover.nj.us>

While we rely upon the expertise of federal, state and county officials to help contain this virus, we have faith in our neighbors and fellow citizens to rise to this challenge for the good of our Town in the weeks to come.

In the meantime, be safe and please follow recommended guidance from your healthcare provider.



Emergency Management Coordinator

3/18/2020

Date



Mayor, Town of Dover

3/17/2020

Date