



March 16, 2020

Dear Neighbor,

**Coronavirus Update:**

As of today, there are now 101 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Nassau County. Throughout recent days, I have been in close contact with local and state health officials while monitoring the outbreak of this virus.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said today that [all casinos, gyms, movie theaters, bars and restaurants in the state will shut down starting at 8 p.m. tonight](#). The businesses will remain closed until further notice. Essential businesses like supermarkets, gas stations and pharmacies will remain open. Restaurants and bars will be closed for dine-in service, but allowed to continue takeout after tonight.

As the virus began its spread across the United States, we have faced numerous disruptions in almost every aspect of our lives. [Schools across Nassau County will be closed for the next two weeks, and schools across the city will be closed for at least a month](#). The Centers for Disease Control recommends that all social gatherings of [50 or more people be cancelled or postponed for the next 8 weeks](#). The Nassau County Legislature will remain open in the meantime in order to address this all-important issue, among others, in the coming weeks.

While these are uncertain times, we should let fear of the unknown control our lives as we adapt to this new situation. [The Centers For Disease Control suggests a number of steps you can take](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Avoiding crowded areas such as social gatherings or mass transportation.
- Wash your hands often, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as cell phones, and doorknobs.

While the CDC recommends “social distancing” to slow the spread of the virus, this does not mean that families should completely put their lives on hold during the outbreak. There are a number of activities we can participate in that do follow the new CDC guidelines while also getting us out of the house:

- Nature walks
- Family picnics
- Outdoor exercises

Residents should be vigilant when receiving telephone solicitations or emails from persons which could be scams or rumors regarding COVID-19. Residents should stay informed by watching and/or listening to affiliated news agencies and logging onto the Nassau County website [www.nassaucountyny.gov](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov)

In the interest of protecting public health, PSEG Long Island has temporarily suspended shut-offs of electric service to residential customers for non-payment.

Nassau County Traffic and parking violations agency staff will still be on site answering inquiries via the call center or by email. If a motorist has a pending license suspension, it means they missed their court date more than 90 days ago. The motorist can pay the amount due online or by phone to have the impending suspension or actual suspension resolved.

Because of the virus, the following county departments will be open to the public during the following times:

Department of Consumer Affairs – 10am to 2 pm

Treasurer –10am to 2pm

Office of Housing – 9am to 12pm

Assessment Review Commission – 9am to 12pm

12 Step meetings are being cancelled across LI due to policies surrounding gatherings.  
for support, Long Island Council On Alcoholism and Drug Dependence clinicians are on call 24  
hrs a day at 631-979-1700

I would also like to take a moment to thank our extraordinary healthcare professionals who  
have been working around the clock to help us control the spread of COVID-19. From the  
doctors and nurses on the front lines, to the administrative offices that keep everything  
running smoothly, we are happy to have you in this fight with us.

If you wish to learn more about Nassau's readiness to combat this deadly disease, the county  
has established a dedicated hotline for the coronavirus which will be answered by a live  
person from 9 am to 5 pm. That number is 516-227-9570. New York State also has a 24-hour  
hotline. That number is 1-888-364-3065. Alternatively, you can call the CDC hotline at 800-  
232-4636.

You can also learn more about the disease through the [CDC website](#) and the [New York State Health Department](#).

**Rather than visiting county offices, please consider using the numbers below:**

Assessment Review Commission 516-3214 (adjusted hours:9am to 12pm)

Board of Elections 516-571-2411

Consumer Affairs 516-571-2600 (adjusted hours:10am to 2pm)

County Assessor Office 516-571-1500

County Clerk 516-571-2664

County Executive 516-571-3131

County Treasurer 516-571-2090 (adjusted hours:10am to 2pm)

District Attorney 516-571-3800

Fire Marshal 516-573-9900

Health Department 516-227-9697

Jury Duty (Commissioner of Jurors) 800-449-2819

Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities 516-227-7057

Nassau Community College 516-572-7500

Office of Aging 516-227-8900

Office of Housing 516-572-1900 (adjusted hours:9am to 12pm)

Parking & Traffic Violations Agency 516-572-2700

Parks, Recreation & Museums 516-572-0200

Physically Challenged, Office for the (Handicapped Parking Permits) 516-227-7399

Poison Control 800-222-1222

Police Department 516-573-8800

Public Works 516-571-6900

Social Services 516-227-8519

Veterans' Services 516-572-6565

Youth Services 516-227-7134

I understand that recent events can be frightening, but I and my colleagues in every level of the government are monitoring this outbreak 24 hours a day, and will be doing everything in our power to keep you and your family safe, healthy, and well-informed during these trying times. If you have any questions or comments at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. Also, you can visit my [Facebook page](#), which will be regularly updated with information regarding COVID-19.

Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts and ideas you have with respect to the county or on any particular issue where I may be of assistance. You may contact me at 516-571-6209 or by [email](#).

Thank you.



Rich Nicolello  
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Nassau County Legislature

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