



# VILLAGE OF TARRYTOWN

One Depot Plaza, Tarrytown, New York 10591-3605

www.tarrytowngov.com

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March 4, 2020

Re: Coronavirus (COVID 19) Announcement and Status Update from the Village of Tarrytown

Dear Community Member:

This announcement and update is to provide our residents and visitors with a status of where the Village and our region stands in relation to the response to the Coronavirus (COVID 19) respiratory disease. The Village has coordinated with other levels of government, and will be coordinating with our schools, including the EF School.

## **What is Coronavirus (COVID 19)?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals. Village, County, State and Federal agencies are responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in over 70 countries internationally, including in the United States. For more information, see the World Health Organization's Q&A pages regarding coronaviruses (COVID-19): <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

## **What steps can I take to protect myself and reduce my risk of contracting the disease?**

At this time, we should continue to go about our daily lives, but take the same precautions that we would during cold and flu season:

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue (not your hands), throw the tissue in the trash, then wash your hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a bleach-based cleaning product
- If you experience symptoms that are similar to COVID-19 – these are fever, cough, shortness of breath, and can lead to pneumonia – call your doctor's office or emergency room, describe your symptoms and any recent travel/contact, and ask them for guidance on what you should do prior to traveling to a health facility. Avoid contact with others.

## **Risks of the Disease:**

Based on the information available to us, and the cases that have occurred worldwide, we note the following:

- Those who are more likely to become sick include adults, especially those with underlying health conditions or who are immune compromised.
- Infants and children appear to be much less likely to become sick

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- Approximately 80% of those infected or who carry the disease are not seriously affected, and don't exhibit symptoms
- Approximately 20% of those infected do become sick
- Of the 20% who become infected and sick, a small percentage of those could have a very severe case of this disease, which could require medical care. The CDC estimates a mortality rate of approximately 1.4% here in the United States.

### **Travel Cautions**

Since the situation is rapidly changing domestically and abroad, we recommend checking with the Department of State or Center for Disease Control to see if there are any travel advisories or restrictions for the destinations you would like to travel to.

### **Resources:**

#### **Status in New York and Westchester:**

The situation in New York and Westchester to date notes that positive cases have been detected and confirmed in New York State, with one in New York City and five in Westchester County as of March 4, 2020.

Press Conference March 3, 2020 Westchester County Executive George Latimer: <https://bit.ly/2VFUWoV>

Press Conference March 3, 2020 Governor Andrew Cuomo: <https://bit.ly/2VfV6gb>

#### **Local/County/State information resources:**

- The Village of Tarrytown: [www.tarrytowngov.com](http://www.tarrytowngov.com)
- Westchester County: <https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- NY State: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

#### **COVID-19 Resources:**

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- WHO: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Advisory Info: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- Condition Overview: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- DOS – Dept. of State Travel Guidance: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>
- Northwell Health: <https://thewell.northwell.edu/coronavirus>
- Resources for families/children via Facebook safety expert Pedimom: <https://bit.ly/38IGN35>
- Basic precautions <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>
- WHO Mythbusters: <https://bit.ly/2TmhN7v>
- CDC Share Facts: <https://bit.ly/2TI0WSu>

New York and Westchester County are wonderfully diverse areas made up of people from many different backgrounds, religions and parts of the world, who speak many different languages. This situation promises to be challenging for us all, but we must all work together to prevent biases and discrimination against persons of specific ethnicities or countries of origin. We ask everyone for patience, tolerance and understanding in order weather this difficult time together.



Richard Slingerland, Village Administrator