

Press Release

As of March 23, 2020, the Somerset County Department of Health (SCDOH) is reporting 1 new case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in North Plainfield, for a total of 3 cases. The individual is 50 years old and there are no known exposures at this time. The Somerset County Department of Health is identifying anyone who had close contact with this patient, to provide guidance and limit the spread of infection.

“Unfortunately, this new coronavirus can be very serious, and we are calling on all our residents to stay home,” said Mayor Michael Giordano. “We recognize the hardships that many in our community may be facing, but this measure will allow us to effectively respond to this ongoing public health event together.”

COVID-19 is spreading in the community. Symptoms of the coronavirus appear within two to 14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. While it can cause mild to more severe respiratory illness in some individuals, others may experience severe complications and require hospitalization. It’s important for everyone, including young and healthy people to practice social distancing -- stay home, and keep at least 2 arms’ length (6 feet) away from others.

Only individuals who have specific exposures and are experiencing symptoms need to be tested. Testing is not available for the worried well.

Public health officials continue to encourage residents to follow common-sense health habits and routinely clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces. These interventions are among the best ways to control a virus when vaccines are not available.

The daily health precautions that can prevent the spread of the coronavirus and other diseases:

- Stay home.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time
- Resist the urge to touch your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched
- Stay home when you are sick

Residents with questions or concerns about COVID-19 can call 2-1-1, text NJCOVID to 898-211, or email coronavirus@co.somerset.nj.us.

For an updated case count of COVID-19 in Somerset County, please call 908-231-7111 or visit SCDOH’s new dashboard at www.co.somerset.nj.us/health.

Since the situation is evolving, it is important to stay up to date by following trusted sources of information such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov, the World Health Organization at www.who.int, the New Jersey Department of Health at www.nj.gov/health and the Somerset County Department of Health at www.co.somerset.nj.us/health.