

## PRESS RELEASE

Today, **North Plainfield** Borough was notified of a death of a resident who previously tested positive for COVID-19. Somerset County Department of Health confirmed the borough resident was in their 50s. As of March 26, there are a total of 12 cases of COVID-19 in North Plainfield, and 190 cases in Somerset County.

“We are deeply saddened today to learn that a resident has died from COVID-19,” said Mayor Michael Giordano. “We send our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones during their time of mourning. Somerset County Department of Health, and our public health colleagues remain vigilant in our efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus and will continue to do all we can to protect our most vulnerable populations.”

COVID-19 is spreading in the community, and additional cases will continue to be identified. All age groups are being affected and no one is immune. This is why it is important to stay home. Every resident needs to aggressively minimize close contact with other people. 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 vastly important for everyone, including young and healthy people to practice safe distancing -- stay home, and keep at least 2 arm's length (6 feet) away from others.

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. Somerset County Department of Health is strongly appealing to residents to limit their risk of exposure by staying home and avoiding close contact with people outside of their household. This is the primary way to limit exposure to COVID-19. Residents are also urged to follow the personal actions that will help stop the spread of the disease:

- **Just stay home**
- Practice social distancing: maintaining or increasing the distance between people (about two arm's lengths)
- 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 when you cough or sneeze
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched

This is a rapidly changing situation, and information is being shared as it becomes available. 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](http://www.cdc.gov), the World Health Organization at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int), the New Jersey Department of Health at [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health) and the Somerset County Department of Health at [www.co.somerset.nj.us/health](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/health).