



Public Service Announcement from Mayor Porco regarding the Covid-19 Virus

Today, Thursday April 9, 2020, I formally declared a state of emergency for the Borough of Forest Hills. I want to explain why I did this and what it means for Forest Hills Borough Residents.

First, I want to assure all of you the Borough of Forest Hills continues to serve our community with daily operations. Our office staff, Department of Public Works, and Police Departments are all working and continuing to provide services.

I have been meeting with Borough Manager Steve Morus, Police Chief Chuck Williams, our Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Morse, and Council President Bill Tomasic regularly to discuss our preparedness as a Borough and making sure we understand the newest information on this constantly changing pandemic.

We have taken some action in our Borough to mitigate the risk of the spreading of this disease such as closing all parks and working to ensure all non-essential businesses remain closed per Governor Wolf's orders.

The Declaration of Emergency gives Forest Hills Borough officials the ability to take all appropriate action necessary, if needed, to alleviate the effects of this disaster without the normal time-consuming procurement procedures and formalities we normally must follow by law. I want to stress here we have not reached this point yet – this is simply a pre-emptive decision to ensure we are able to do so if needed.

I also want to clarify information regarding the wearing of masks when we must leave our houses as our police department has received a number of inquiries. The COVID-19 virus is primarily spread by the droplets we expel when either coughing or sneezing. The droplets typically spread by approximately our arm's length when we do sneeze or cough which is why we keep hearing safe social distancing is approximately six feet. If we are out walking about the Borough either by yourself or with your family, it is not necessary to wear a mask provided you maintain safe social distancing of six feet between you and other walkers. The donning of masks is encouraged for when you leave the house to go shopping at the grocery store where you may encounter people closer than six feet. If it makes you feel safer – you can certainly wear your masks as you walk about Forest Hills. Of course, the best advice is to stay at home as much as possible and only go out as needed.

I want to take this opportunity to let you know Forest Hills strives for open and honest communication with our residents, we will be holding a Facebook Live Session this Saturday morning at 9 am to present additional information, you can join by clicking on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ForestHillsEmergencyManagement/posts/2988293944554459>

Please be sure to visit our borough's website at www.foresthillspa.org for additional details, resources and information regarding the COVID-19 virus.

I will close this message by stating that the Borough of Forest Hills looks forward to helping each other get through these unprecedented times in our community.

We wish all of you who are celebrating either Passover or Easter a Happy Holiday this weekend.