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Edgar Dugan, Councilman
Patrick Miller, Councilman
Scott Lobdell, Councilman
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Anthony S. Mangeri, Town Manager
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Fred Townsend, III, Town Attorney

Townsend Continued Response to Coronavirus November 25, 2020

Cases of the Coronavirus have significantly increased in our area throughout November, and especially in the last two weeks. Information specific to our area can be found at <https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/locations/zip-code-19734>. This comes as we begin the holiday season when community and family gatherings would usually be the norm. The State and Federal Public Health officials have issued warnings to limit gatherings during this holiday season. We urge each of our town residents to enjoy the holiday and to stay vigilant about health and safety due to the pandemic. As a community, we face a difficult and challenging winter.

Governor Carney has issued a Third Revision to Omnibus COVID-19 Emergency Order. This order directs that home gatherings be capped at 10 people in an effort to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. The Governor's order includes the following:

- Indoor gatherings at businesses or indoor spaces open to the public must be limited to the lesser of 30 percent of the venue's stated fire capacity, or 50 people.
- Services in houses of worship are limited to 30 percent of capacity, up to 100 people. Additional capacity may be permitted with a plan approved by the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) by emailing HSPcontact@delaware.gov.
- Outdoor public gatherings are limited to 50 people. Additional capacity, up to a cap of 250 people, may be permitted with a plan approved by DPH.
- Restaurants must operate at no more than 30 percent of fire capacity indoors, with allowances for additional outdoor seating. Additionally, parties sitting at the bar must not exceed two people.
- Delawareans must always wear face coverings in gyms.

Lastly, Governor Carney's order prohibits Delaware youth sports organizations, teams and venues from hosting or participating in tournaments with out-of-state teams, *effective at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020*. The order includes a provision prohibiting Delaware teams from traveling across state lines for tournaments.

Individuals with minimal to no symptoms may be carriers of the COVID-19 virus and may unknowingly spread the virus to other individuals in close proximity. The Town Council and staff continue to work with the State and New Castle County Officials to address the needs of our community while continuing to take actions to help control further spread of the COVID-19 in the area.

It is important to understand that these measures have been set to assist with managing the potential spread of COVID-19 within our community and our region. We continue to monitor the situation and have participated in briefings to understand how the declaration may impact our community as we progress through the Governor's phased reopening plan.

Garbage and Recyclables Collection

Garbage and recycling services will continue as scheduled. We continue to coordinate with the leadership at Waste Industries, a GFL company. We are assured that garbage and recyclables will be collected as scheduled. Check out their website, <https://wasteindustries.com/>, for additional information.

Town Hall Operations

At this time, all scheduled Town Council, board, and commission meetings will be held via conference call and online via Zoom meeting. Residents will be able to view documents posted to the meeting tab on the Town website at www.townsend.delaware.gov. Those wishing to attend may dial the number provided on the agenda or may connect online with the meeting link provided. Please check the Town's website and agenda for access information for each meeting.

- To provide for the health of our staff and residents, Town Hall offices remain closed to the public until further notice. We ask residents to use the drop box outside Town Hall for own correspondence or business. Staff will be collecting items from the drop box and processing payments and correspondence.
- Payments can be made electronically or by check or money order via the drop box located outside our office. Please do not drop off cash.
- Town staff continue to work and remain available via telephone, email, and our drop box to serve our community. Our team remains committed to serving the needs of the Town. Please continue to monitor the Town's website for any updates.
- Maintenance staff are working to assure that Town facilities are appropriately maintained. However, we do not have the staff needed to disinfect all facilities. The use of any Town equipment or facilities are at your own risk and are to be avoided.

Town Park

The Townsend Town Park grounds on Edgar Road remains open with limited use. Park walking areas and open spaces remain open for exercise and fresh air. However, Town Park is not staffed with Town employees on a regular basis. All individuals choosing to use the Park are reminded to follow Public Health Guidelines including wearing a face covering when it is difficult to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet between individuals of different households, and practice good hand cleaning hygiene.

Playground Equipment, Basketball Courts and Skateboard Areas

Until further notice, all playground equipment, the basketball court, and skateboard areas are closed for public use for safety. This is consistent with the Governor's recommendations and public health guidance to combat the spread of the Coronavirus in our community.

Gatherings in Town Park

To combat the COVID-19 Pandemic, Town Park use is limited to individual or small groups. Open air gatherings of no more than 25 people are permitted in the Park, provided that they are held in the open air. The pavilion remains closed for public gatherings. All visitors to the park are advised to use social distancing protocols while using the park. Information on social distancing practices can be found at <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/what-delawareans-can-do/>.

Remember to wash your hands regularly, cover your cough and stay home if you are sick. It is especially important for at-risk populations, specifically the elderly, to avoid large gatherings.

Youth Sports

The leadership of any youth sports team wishing to use Town Park fields must first contact Town Manager to discuss a plan for how the organization/team will comply with State Public Health directives. Each team will be required to sign a document before being allowed to use the fields.

If you have questions about COVID-19 or exposure risk you can call the Division of Public Health's Coronavirus Call Center at 1-866-408-1899 or TTY at 1-800-232-5460 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email DPHCall@delaware.gov. For the latest on Delaware's response, visit de.gov/coronavirus.

Mayor and Council
Town of Townsend