

TOWN OF CORNWALL

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Coronavirus / Covid-19 Update - March 20, 2020

Hello Friends,

Today, in consultation with Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe, I have signed an emergency declaration for The Town of Cornwall. This declaration reinforces our work that is already underway to mitigate this health challenge. We are operating a unified command structure including Town Officials, Fire & Ambulance Officers, emergency managers and health professionals. The Town Offices and Town Hall staff are working regular hours and are available by phone or email. Town board meetings are being held remotely by the use of Zoom with public input possible. The Town has had a talented response to our call for volunteers. A home delivery service for food & medicine has been set up with coordination of our Social Services Department. Details are available at www.CornwallCT.org. A Citizen Response Emergency Team has been trained and will do the deliveries.

Sensible acts by individuals will determine the success of our community actions. We are asking residents to follow the well publicized CDC guidelines for social distance, personal hygiene and sheltering in place. We are strongly asking people to limit their trips to public spaces whether to search for supplies or travel to and from hot spots including the New York Metro Area. Governor Cuomo yesterday estimated that a peak in cases may not occur there for 45 days. Our actions today to limit the virus spread will determine the quality of life in Cornwall in the near future.

The latest word is that over 50% percent of patients in US I.C.U.'s are under age 60. This virus does not only infect the elderly. Connecticut testing sites continue to be developed with Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington coming on line today. But testing continues to be limited to people who have been prescreened by hospital staff and primary care physicians due to scarce resources. Excellent FAQ's can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/COVID-19-FAQs.pdf?la=en>

Again, I would like to thank the many people who are working to make this situation better. The campaign to "stay apart / together" may take quite some time. Relief funds for local residents can be sent to the Cornwall Food 7 Fuel Fund, Box 97, Cornwall, CT 06753. Also, thanks for checking on your neighbors.

Sincerely,

Gordon Ridgway
First Selectman
Town of Cornwall, CT

CC: Selectman Priscilla Pavel and Selectwoman Marina Kotchoubey