

TOWN OF CORNWALL

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Coronavirus / Covid-19 Letter - March 13, 2020

Dear Cornwall Residents,

Since I wrote on Wednesday the Covid-19 virus has brought many new developments. The infection rate in the Tri-State Area has increased with sustained community transmission. And more importantly, the current best estimates of Connecticut State Officials has risen to 20% to 30% of CT residents being infected within the next 6 weeks. Most people will have mild symptoms, but the mortality rate of Covid-19 is 10X higher than the standard flu. This will present unprecedented challenges for our health care and emergency management systems.

The individual and group actions can still effect the severity of this threat. The first step we all can take is taking this virus seriously by changing personal behavior. The need for hand washing and social distancing have been well publicized. We are also asking people to limit unnecessary travel. If people have two houses, please decide to stay put in one and not commute back and forth. Combine shopping trips to stock up on necessary supplies. If you are sick please stay home and call your doctor.

Our Region one schools will be closed starting on Monday. We have asked civic organizers to cancel non-essential events. There is a lot of useful information for citizens, civic groups and businesses on the CDC website, www.cdc.gov. Accurate information is key. Our Town Emergency Response Working Group – comprised of Town Officials, Emergency Management Director Diane Beebe, Fire & EMS Officers, and School Officials has met and has developed action plans.

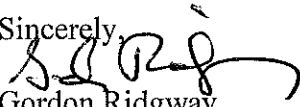
We are asking if people would like to volunteer, being younger and in good health – please contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-672-4959 or cwselectmen@optonline.net. Especially if people have some background in various skills of EMS.

At the same time, we are in constant contact with regional and state officials concerning our needs as a community. We will strive to minimize the impact of Covid-19. If you have any particular concerns please contact the Selectmen's Office at cwselectmen@optonline.net or 860-672-4959.

Our Town's goal is to ensure continuity of operations. We ask that residents call or email Town Hall if a personal visit can be avoided. The transfer station will remain open although residents are asked to keep visits brief. The fire and ambulance remain on call 24/7, but ask residents to make good personal choices to reduce call volume. Please wash your hands before coming to public spaces.

We are looking at a fairly long time of challenge which may get worse quite quickly. I am confident that Cornwall – a caring community will work together to make the best of a difficult situation. Please also feel free to give your neighbor a call.

Sincerely,



Gordon Ridgway
First Selectmen
Town of Cornwall