

**BOROUGH OF NORTH CALDWELL**  
**Borough Hall – 141 Gould Avenue**  
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March 25, 2020

Dear North Caldwell Residents,

This is Mayor Joe Alessi. I'd like to open this meeting with a brief update on the coronavirus pandemic which has gripped our nation and the State of New Jersey. The State has activated a 211 direct dial phone number to assist with handling COVID-19 calls from residents. Alternatively, you can text your zip code to 898-211 to receive live text assistance.

Our great community of North Caldwell has also been hit by COVID-19. Currently, we have seven (7) confirmed cases in North Caldwell but these numbers will undoubtedly go up as testing becomes more available to the public. These increases should not create panic. However, they should serve as a stark reminder of our responsibilities to stay at home, except for essential activities or work.

Many of you may know somebody in your family or neighborhood that has become sick. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. You are the people who best know the importance of following all social distancing restrictions and following the Governor's stay-at-home order. Social distancing is the only way to reduce the exposure to yourselves and your immediate family. It is also the only way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and give our healthcare industry a fighting chance to save lives.

In North Caldwell, we understand our duty to serve the public and have taken every measure we can to limit our staff's exposure while maintaining a continuity of services. As always, our emergency responders are on-duty and serving the community and keeping us all safe.

Our Police Department faces a unique difficulty during this time but has met the challenge and I commend them. They have bravely served our community without disruption and will continue to do so. Similarly, our Public Works Department will also continue to serve the public by maintaining essential job responsibilities.

Borough Hall has been closed to the public and our staff has been ordered to work from home. However, you will be able to contact any department and receive answers to your questions by phone or email. We appreciate your patience during this temporary measure which is intended to protect our staff and all of our residents.

Please be advised that we have also postponed the introduction of our budget as we perform a thorough re-examination of it. Extraordinary times call for us to re-think all expenses and reduce the burden placed on our residents. We understand the financial impact this pandemic will have throughout the community and we are focused on limiting the Borough's impact while maintaining the services expected and deserved.

Similarly, the Borough has joined a voluntary pledge jointly distributed by the NJDEP, NJDCA and BPU that we will not shut off water to residents for nonpayment or inability to pay water bills during this public health crisis. Additionally, we have temporarily frozen penalties for late-payment on water accounts.

I would like to extend my appreciation to County Executive Joe DiVincenzo who has been instrumental in keeping a coordinated effort throughout Essex County. The County OEM has been actively working with all of our first responders throughout the County. They have been a conduit to FEMA, the Governor's Office and the State OEM during this time. Our local needs are being heard and we are thankful for the County's assistance.

Lastly, it is important to note that Essex County will be opening a COVID-19 Testing Site on Thursday morning for Essex County residents only. It will be held in Essex County Weequahic Park located in Newark. It will be by pre-screened appointment only which can be scheduled online at [www.EssexCOVID.org](http://www.EssexCOVID.org).

My thoughts are with all of you and although apart, we are in this together.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Joseph H. Alessi