



CodeRed Message - Monday, March 16, 2020

Good evening, this is your First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson, with an important coronavirus response message. While the situation changes by the hour, I know you and your family need information on how our team is working to keep you safe.

Today, I took the unprecedented step of declaring a local emergency to underscore the seriousness of the COVID-19 virus threat to our community. Governor Lamont, along with the governors of New York and New Jersey have mandated restaurants, bars, fitness studios and entertainment venues to close as of 8:00pm this evening. Restaurants may continue to provide takeout and delivery food service. Because the virus is so highly contagious, group gatherings are limited to 50 people or less but that may be further reduced in the coming days. The risk of social gatherings is just not worth it.

All these efforts, while extraordinary to be sure, are intended to slow the spread of the virus, reduce the chances of overwhelming our healthcare system and to save lives.

41 people have tested positive for COVID-19 here in CT so far. There are 29 cases in Fairfield County, 13 new cases since yesterday alone. We have 2 confirmed cases here in Darien but limited testing suggests that number may be much higher. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the spread of COVID-19 is in the acceleration phase and that is particularly true here in Fairfield County.

Stay home if you can. Please don't hoard food or non-perishables. We are a community of plenty - let's make sure everyone has what they need. See if your elderly neighbor needs food or a friendly voice on the phone. Please continue to support our local businesses that remain open but practice diligent 'social distancing' as you interact with others in the community.

Public playgrounds are closed due to the risks of virus transmission, but our beaches and parks remain open for your enjoyment. Get outside often for fresh air and exercise - it's important for a health body and mind especially during these stressful times.

Our school administration and board are working diligently to get our kids re-engaged in daily learning. Updates will be provided shortly.

I will provide you with regular updates. We are doing all we can to protect our community.

I'm here for you 24/7 to answer all of your questions and concerns.

Be well, keep calm and wash your hands!

Jayme J. Stevenson, First Selectman
Town of Darien