



## STATEMENT FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE

### Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Earlier today, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 107, which places further restrictions on social gatherings and business operations to slow the spread of COVID-19. These are important steps and the Township is as well prepared as possible to follow the State's guidance and urges our residents to do the same in order to keep your families safe.

The Executive Order, which the Governor refers to as the "Stay at Home Order," has both direct and indirect impacts on our community. Among the direct ways that it has an impact on our residents and the community, is the Executive Order allows residents to:

- 1) Obtain goods or services from **essential** retail businesses;
- 2) Obtain takeout or food beverages from restaurants, other dining establishments or food courts which customer's pick up or have delivered;
- 3) Seek medical attention, essential social services, or assistance from law enforcement;
- 4) Visit family or close friends, caretakers, or romantic partners;
- 5) Report to or perform their job where telecommuting is not possible;
- 6) Engage in outdoor activities, such as walking/running with immediate family, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;
- 7) Leave for an educational, religious, or political reason;
- 8) Leave because of a reasonable fear for health or safety; or
- 9) Leave at the direction of law enforcement or other government agency.

In addition, and more broadly, the Executive Order:

- 1) Bans all gatherings – weddings, parties, celebrations, etc. are cancelled.
- 2) Orders the closure of all retail establishments except those providing essential goods or services including food stores, gas stations, auto repair shops, and pharmacies, among other exceptions.
- 3) Continues the ban on restaurants and bars except for takeout and delivery orders.
- 4) Continues the ban on entertainment facilities, gyms, and other recreational facilities.



While these are important steps for the State, they largely reflect much of what the Township has already done in response to the COVID-19 crisis. We do not anticipate that the “Stay at Home Order” will interfere with our ability to offer continued services to our residents, however in an effort to keep our employees and their families safe, the municipal building will remain closed to the public and staff will begin to exercise flex scheduling to minimize the risk of exposure in our offices.

We continue to encourage our residents to utilize our online services, be vigilant in the practice of “social distancing” when conducting essential business and to most importantly stay at home when at all possible.

This is a time of deep personal concern and uncertainty for people across our community. Our First Responders have been working endlessly ensuring the safety of our residents, while continuing to answer calls all while faced with the uncertainty of what they may come up against. Our staff has been preparing for ways to continue to serve our residents with the least amount of disruption and finding ways to ensure the needs of our community are met. And to you our residents, we thank you for your understanding, patience and perseverance through these difficult times as we find new ways to safely serve you. I encourage you to take care of yourself and your loved ones, to be safe and most importantly please stay home.

Sincerely,

*Susan E. Danson*

Susan E. Danson  
Township Manager