

RESOLUTION

NO. 2020-47

ADOPTED: March 16, 2020

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE BOROUGH OF HOPEWELL, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is responsible for the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, which was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and quickly spread to multiple other countries; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of the COVID-19 illness include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, which may appear in as few as two or as long as 14 days after exposure, and can spread from person to person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern;” and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020 there were nearly 3,500 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, with 63 of those cases having resulted in death; and

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020, there were 98 presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, with one of those cases in Mercer County and two of those cases having resulted in death; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, declared and proclaimed that a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency exist in the State of New Jersey and signed Executive Order No. 103; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America declared a National Emergency to help fight the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that additional cases of COVID-19 will be identified including more cases in the United States, and that person-to-person spread is likely to continue to occur; and

WHEREAS, if COVID-19 spreads in New Jersey at a rate comparable to other affected areas, it could significantly strain the resources and capabilities of municipal governments, including municipal Health Departments that provide vital services for containing and mitigating the spread of contagious diseases, and the situation may become too large to be handled in its entirety by normal municipal operating services; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 may make it difficult or impossible for residents to obtain consumer goods and other necessities of life due to supply chain disruption and price increases, as well as hinder the delivery of essential services such as police, fire and first aid; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 may disrupt the timely delivery of goods or services, the immediate delivery and fulfillment of which is necessary for the life, safety, or health of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hopewell has been working closely with the local, county and state Health Department officials to monitor, plan for and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Jersey, to implement appropriate actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare in the event of an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care or hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hopewell employs a range of employees necessary for the continuous delivery of services at the municipal level and the spread of COVID-19 requires preparedness for staffing shortages and flexibility in work rules to ensure that its employees can fully comply with all medically appropriate measures while also ensuring the continuous delivery of services; and

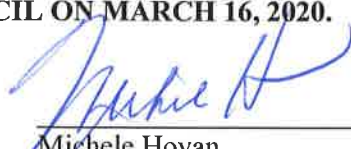
WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 within New Jersey constitutes an imminent public health hazard that threatens and endangers the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the State of New Jersey, County of Mercer and Borough of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action against this public health hazard to protect and maintain the health, safety and welfare of Hopewell Township residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the facts as set forth above and consultation with the State of New Jersey Department of Health and the Hopewell Borough Health Officer confirms that there exists a public health emergency in the Borough of Hopewell.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, does Declare and Proclaim that a Public Health Emergency exists in the Borough of Hopewell and hereby direct the Executive Director of the Hopewell Valley Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with the State, County and Local Health Officials to take any such emergency measures deemed necessary including the activation of municipal emergency operations plans, in order to fully and adequately protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough of Hopewell from any actual or potential threat or danger that may exist from the possible exposure to COVID-19.

ADOPTED BY HOPEWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL ON MARCH 16, 2020.



Michele Hovan
Borough Administrator/Clerk

ROLL CALL VOTE				
COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FOSEL	X			
KENNEDY	X			
MC AULIFFE	X			
MACKIE				X
MOREHOUSE				X
STUHLER	X			