



Office of the **TOWN MANAGER**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Hampton COVID-19 Response Update April 8, 2020

East Hampton, CT, April 10, 2020 – According to the latest information from the Department of Public Health website and the Chatham Health District, the Town of East Hampton remains at five confirmed cases of COVID-19 disease. Residents are reminded that there are known cases in the region and that it is likely that there are other cases in the community and in the surrounding communities that are not showing symptoms or are experiencing mild symptoms. People should continue to take steps to protect themselves and others by following the recommended procedures including the use of cloth masks over their mouth and nose while in public.

The Chatham Health District and the Town remind residents to “Stay Safe, Stay Home” and be diligent as they continue to avoid contact with others. Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds especially after being in public, sneezing, coughing or nose blowing. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer. To further prevent the spread of COVID-19, please use a face mask, always maintain “social distancing” of at least 6 feet and stay away from groups of people. Protect others by staying home if you are sick, covering coughs and sneezes and regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit ct.gov/coronavirus. For general questions, call 2-1-1.

The Town’s operations continue to be impacted by the pandemic. Offices and facilities remain closed to the public with limited ability to meet by appointment as necessary. Effective today, the book drop at the Library will be closed. All patrons are asked to keep the materials they have until the Library opens again. All items will be automatically renewed during the closure and no late fees will be assessed. Patrons are also reminded that many online and downloadable options are available including the ability to obtain a Library Card for access to services. Visit the Library website at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org for more information.

As a reminder, the Town Council and Staff continue to implement the various Executive Orders issued by Governor Lamont and are currently preparing for the Town Council to consider options related to providing relief for residents and businesses as new utility and tax bills are produced during the emergency. At its regular meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 via Zoom, the Council will consider implementation of a low interest rate



program for payers that are unable to pay their bills. The three percent (3%) annual interest rate (0.25% per month or portion of a month) would apply for the first three months a bill is late. Information on the specifics of the program is available in the agenda packet for the meeting. The FY 20/21 budget process will also be under way soon as the revised budget will be made available to the public and sent to the Board of Finance by Monday, April 13.

The next Town update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15.