



Office of the **TOWN MANAGER**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### East Hampton COVID-19 Response Continues

East Hampton, CT, April 3, 2020 – As of April 3, 2020, the State's Department of Public Health website indicates that the Town of East Hampton has had four confirmed cases of COVID-19 disease. Residents are reminded 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.

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 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](http://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. The Town Council and Staff continue to implement the various Executive Orders issued by Governor Lamont including those related to preparation and adoption of the Town's next budget. At a special meeting held via the Zoom platform, the Town Council adopted an amendment to its Budget Policy Statement directing Town staff and encouraging the Board of Education to reevaluate previous proposals to keep increases in the Fiscal Year 20/21 budget "to an absolute minimum." Additionally, the Council adopted a Resolution establishing a new budget adoption process in keeping with the Governor's Order mandating budget adoption without a public referendum or in-face meetings. The process is nearly identical to the Town's normal process but includes a time delay as well as incorporating two written public comment periods related to the Board of Finance's review process and the Town Council's review process. In accordance with the Executive Orders, the Town Council will approve the Education and Town budgets and set the mill rate. Both the Budget Policy



Statement and the Budget Resolution are available on the Town's website: [easthamptonct.gov](http://easthamptonct.gov).

As a reminder, Town offices and facilities are closed to the public. Staff continues to work its normal hours, but many are working remotely and staff is limited in Town facilities. Contact is best through e-mail, but phone contact is available. Please leave a message if you encounter a voice mail and staff will respond within one business day.

The Library and Senior Center remain closed. Online services remain active for the Library including extensive collections of E-books and E-audio books available for download as well as its compliment of online research and activity tools, plus a lot of new online programing for people of all ages. Check the Library's website or call the Library for more information. The Senior Center continues to keep in touch with our older adult population and is working to assist with necessary transportation and nutrition needs. Soon, it will implement a grocery shopping service for East Hampton's older adults so that they are able to stay home. More information will be available from the Senior Center as soon as the program is implemented.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to develop online programs for fitness and other activities. The Department has been using Facebook for communication and to post ideas and information for the public. Additionally, while play structures have been closed, the Department is ensuring that parks and trails remain open for use. The public is reminded that these should be used while keeping the social distancing concepts in mind. People should not congregate in large groups in public spaces.

The Social Services Department is working to continue to provide as much of its counseling services as possible via telephone, but it has shifted a great deal of its focus to assisting with emergency situations arising from the pandemic including food and fuel needs for families in need.

The Town Council has suspended fees and modified regulations related to the use of the Town's Transfer Station. The Station is operating its normal hours each Saturday from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm. Residents may deposit one load of bulky waste or furniture at the Station each weekend at no charge. Additional loads are not accepted. Also, no tires are being accepted during this time. The free services provided at the transfer station, which include disposal of metals, large appliances, waste oil, mattresses, car batteries, electronics and brush continue to be available.