



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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MARCH 25, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORONAVIRUS SPREADS IN EAST HAMPTON AND L.I.: SUPERVISOR VAN SCOYOC STRESSES NEED TO STAY HOME, AVOID PUBLIC PLACES AND GROUPS

**White House Task Force Says New Yorkers Who Have Relocated From NYC
Should Self-Quarantine for Two Weeks**

Governor Cuomo's order to suspend nonessential businesses goes into effect; State Bans "Non-essential gatherings of any size"

All residents of East Hampton have been urged to stay at home and leave their houses only if absolutely necessary, as confirmed cases of coronavirus continue to rise.

New York City residents who have recently left the city should self-quarantine at home for 14 days, Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus coordinator, said at a White House briefing on Tuesday, citing the increased number of virus cases across Long Island "that suggest people have left the city," and expressing "deep concern" about the spread of the virus across the New York metro area.

New Yorkers who have left for other places need to make sure they are not "seeding" the rest of the United States, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The number of confirmed cases in Suffolk County rose to 1,880 as of Monday afternoon, March 23, with 13 cases confirmed in East Hampton Town.

“I call on everyone to think of your neighbors and your families, and protect your own health as well as others' by remaining at home for at least 14 days,” said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc. “Nothing is more important at this time than doing everything we can to ‘flatten the curve’ and slow the spread of coronavirus to prevent our health care system from being overwhelmed.”

According to N.Y.S. Governor Cuomo, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in New York State is doubling approximately every three days. The availability of tests is still limited, and the number of cases is expected to increase significantly as testing increases.

By executive order on Monday, Governor Cuomo declared that, throughout the state, “non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations or other social events) are canceled or postponed at this time.”

Social distancing should be practiced immediately, as slowing the peak of the COVID-19 virus is crucial over the next few weeks. The virus can linger in the air and on surfaces, so frequent disinfecting and hand washing is also crucial.

“As testing for the coronavirus has been limited, we must assume that the infection is much more widespread than has been confirmed so far,” said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc. “The safest course of action is to assume that you, and others you may come into contact with, may have the virus, and to stay away from others.”

Because of this, staffing levels at East Hampton Town departments continue to be reduced, in some cases potentially to an all-remote workforce, while maintaining the minimum services necessary for town government to function.

Errands, such as food shopping, should be limited. Supervisor Van Scoyoc assured that, while there may be temporary shortages of items in high demand, food supplies are secure and local stores are being regularly restocked. All have been asked to limit their purchases of high-demand items.

As of Sunday night, March 22, all nonessential businesses across New York State have been ordered closed by Governor Andrew Cuomo. No business should be operating unless included on the state's list of "essential businesses," posted at <https://esd.ny.gov>

Grocery stores and pharmacies are considered essential. Landscaping and construction are currently allowed. Businesses with only a single occupant or employee are deemed exempt from the closure order. Waivers from the closure order may be requested from the state at <https://esd.ny.gov/content/request-designation-essential-business-purposes-executive-order-2026>