

As of this morning, Gloucester County is reporting 251 positive cases and 1,197 negative cases of COVID-19. Pitman continues to hold at 3 confirmed cases at this time. Thank you to everyone's efforts to limit the spread in our community. It is critical that we continue to do everything we can to continue social distancing when able, and the CDC is now recommending "wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain." Coverings should not be masks (N95 Respirators) reserved strictly for health care workers and first responders.

Over the last several days, we learned of some information that was provided to the public regarding "drive by" celebrations and other similar holiday celebrations. The information made a blanket statement that these types of activities were not permitted and violated the Governor's orders. This is NOT the case.

Like most issues during this unprecedented time, this issue has been evolving based on the concerns from a few officials around Gloucester County where social distancing and other efforts to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus were apparently not being followed...direct contact, no social distancing, etc. When these orders are not followed, there is a problem. When the mitigation efforts and the Governor's orders are followed, these activities are not a problem.

Information was sent to Gloucester County Mayors on Friday that final guidance would come from the County Prosecutor and ultimately from NJ OEM. Chief McAteer has learned that when social distancing and mitigation efforts are followed, these types of activities are permitted. Enforcement of any activities like this rest solely with our local law enforcement. As we have asked before, be smart and please do not put our officers in a position where they have to step in to maintain the mitigation efforts...to be candid, please do not make us shut these down.

With all that being said, none of our volunteers will be asked to do anything like this if they feel that it jeopardizes their health or the health of their families. We should ALL respect their opinions on how to best keep themselves and their families safe.

We are the "Small Town with the Big Heart." We all believe we must do everything we can to prevent the spread of this virus, but we also cannot lose the soul of our community during these difficult and challenging times.

Stay well,

Michael

*Michael L. Razze, Jr.*  
**Mayor, Borough of Pitman**  
110 S Broadway  
Pitman, NJ 08071