



TOWN OF MONROE

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

COVID-19 Pandemic Update March 22, 2020

Good evening, this is First Selectman Ken Kellogg with an important update on the COVID-19 situation and impacts to our community. These are challenging times, yet we must all continue to do our part to slow the spread of the virus.

Today, Monroe joined some of our neighboring communities in having our first laboratory-confirmed case in Monroe, in an individual over 60 years old. While this is certainly concerning, it is not unexpected, and we should anticipate more confirmed cases in the coming days. We will continue to post daily updates on case counts on our website.

As we now have confirmation of local transmission in Monroe, I have declared a local emergency, so that the Town is able to take any appropriate actions necessary to respond to the pandemic.

As we are all aware, the Governor continues to issue executive orders, with the intent of increasing social distancing. With that in mind, here are some important updates:

- Per the Governor's order, next year's budget must be adopted without conducting a referendum. I have been in touch with the leadership on our Town Council and Board of Finance, and we will have further information in the future regarding the budget process, which will provide opportunity for public input.
- The Governor's orders will also require certain local businesses to temporarily close their doors by 8 PM Monday, unless they are in a category deemed essential by the state. Grocery stores, pharmacies, and restaurant take-out and delivery are among the many businesses that are allowed to remain open. The state will be releasing additional details later tonight.
- As I announced last week, routine public access to Town Hall and the Senior Center is closed, however you may call for information or to obtain services remotely.
- While the Library is now closed, please check the website for online services.
- Our public parks and trails are available for open recreation for those practicing social distancing, however the basketball courts and playgrounds are closed to prevent large gatherings.

I will continue to provide major updates via CodeRED, and frequent updates will continue to be posted on our website, social media, and through email to our "News and Announcements" mailing list, which you can sign up for by going to the "Important Links" section on the Town's website.

As always, my thanks to our community as we work together to get through these dramatic, but temporary, changes in our daily lives.

Kenneth M. Kellogg
First Selectman