Dear Harding Resident:

I want to give you a quick update on what the Harding Municipal Government has done and will continue to do in this difficult time.

Morris County has reported two cases of COVID-19. County health officials are working closely with hospitals and doctors’ offices to try and get more kits so testing can be done on a larger patient population.

Bob Falzarano, Harding’s Administrator, the Township Committee, Harding Board of Health, and our other professionals and I are working closely with our first responders to ensure we are offering support and assistance. Our OEM team has met in person and by phone and continues to keep all lines of communications open. The health and safety of our first responders are of the utmost importance. They are on the front line for all of us.

Our OEM team has participated in nearly daily calls, sometimes multiple calls each day, with County officials to get updates and understand what assistance is available and to learn what other towns are doing. OEM has been in close contact with Superintendent Spelker, who has been on many of the calls, to keep school officials fully informed.

The Board of Health is monitoring conditions and offering suggestions to town officials. Additional information is available on the Board of Health webpage.

Town government operations continue. Starting March 17th, the Municipal Building will be closed to the public for general business. Employees are working modified schedules in the building to reduce the number of people at the Municipal Building and working from their homes. Arrangements are being made for a drop box to be placed at Town Hall for the use of residents who need to return forms and documents. Meetings of the Township Committee, Board of Health, and our boards, commissions, and committees will remain open to the public – please observe spacing in the room and spread out. Check the website for up to date scheduling information.

The coronavirus page on our website provides links to important and verifiable sources of information and that page is kept updated. Any Social Media from unverified sources are not typically ideal for good information. Accurate Coronavirus information will be updated as follows:

* Visit the Municipal Website [www.hardingnj.org](http://www.hardingnj.org) under Quick Links click on the “Corona Virus Information” button. This has links to the CDC, State Health Department, Harding Health Department website, and Morris County Health Services. If you are looking for the Health Department webpage, click on “Departments” then click on “Health Department”.

* Social media messages have been sent and will continue to be sent via the Harding Township Police Department. Please sign up for AlertHarding at [www.AlertHarding.com](http://www.AlertHarding.com).

The best, most consistent advice we have received is that social distancing is the key to slowing the spread of the virus. Social distancing is minimizing time spent away from home and taking care with coughing and sneezing. Trips to see medical professionals, buying groceries and supplies and going to work should be among the only reasons to leave home and when you are out in public try to keep distance between yourself and others. If you have disinfectant wipes, wipe down surfaces you are going to be touching.
If you have elderly neighbors or neighbors in poor health, please call them and offer assistance in shopping for them or delivering needed supplies. They are the most vulnerable among us and should not face the need to leave home to get food and other necessities. If you need assistance with these necessities and no family or friends are available, please call Lisa Sharp at 973-267-8000, extension 1968 and we will do what we can.

Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns or ideas.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Yates, Mayor