



## **CORONAVIRUS: SYMPTOMS, PREVENTION, AND MORE**

Dear Friends,

My team and I have received a lot of calls and questions about the coronavirus over the last few weeks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the coronavirus to be a serious public health threat. I wanted to take a moment to share some steps you can take to be prepared and stay healthy, as well as some general information about the virus so you can stay informed.

I'm working with our local officials and organizations to hear about the status of preparations for potential coronavirus cases in New Jersey and to listen to their needs from the federal government to keep our residents safe. I convened a call this week with leaders from major hospital systems and primary care providers in the 11th Congressional District to hear from them on coronavirus preparations.

On Wednesday, we passed an \$8.3 billion package in the House of Representatives for a robust response to this public health emergency. Among its provisions, the emergency supplemental includes:

- More than \$3 billion for research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics;
- \$2.2 billion in public health funding for prevention, preparedness, and response, \$950 million of which is to support state & local health agencies;
- Nearly \$1 billion for procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, to support healthcare preparedness and Community Health Centers, and to improve medical surge capacity;

- \$61 million to facilitate the development and review of medical countermeasures, devices, therapies, and vaccines, and to help mitigate potential supply chain interruptions; and
- Allows for an estimated \$7 billion in low-interest loans to affected small businesses.

The emergency supplemental also contains other strong provisions to ensure a full response and keep Americans safe. The bill:

- Requires that funds are only used to fight the coronavirus and other infectious diseases;
- Allows seniors to access telemedicine services for coronavirus treatment;
- Helps ensure that vaccines and treatments for coronavirus are affordable; and
- Ensures that state and local governments are reimbursed for costs incurred while assisting the federal response.

## **Symptoms**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Symptoms can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19, call your doctor.

## **Prevention**

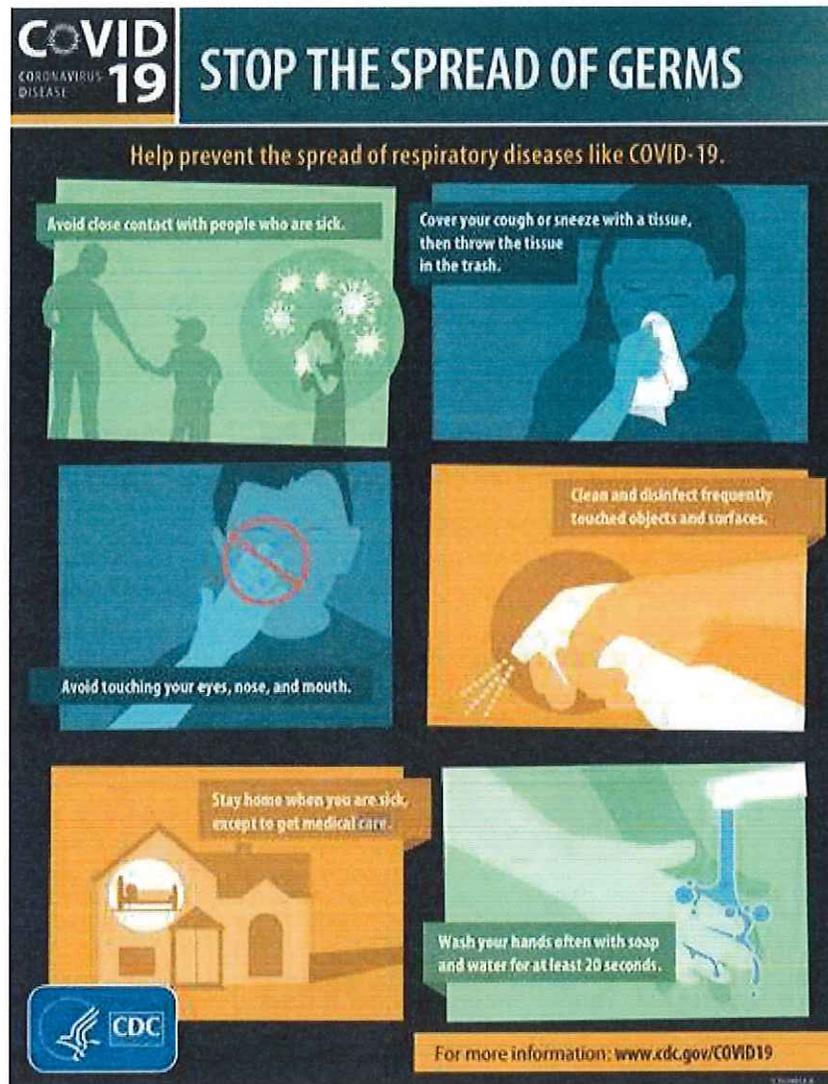
The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available

*If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:*

- Stay home except to get medical care
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor

- Wear a facemask
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Avoid sharing personal household items
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available



### Further Information

Experts have been working hard to understand this new strain of coronavirus. Because new information is coming out every day, please visit the sites below to stay up to date.

The [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov) provides updates on the virus and safety information for the public and healthcare professionals.

The New Jersey Department of Health provides updates on the disease's spread within the state, as well as frequently asked questions available here.

The State Department provides a list of travel advisories for those who are planning to fly outside of the United States.

The safety of you and your loved ones is of the utmost importance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call my office at (973) 526-5668.

Thank you,



Mikie Sherrill

*I'm incredibly honored to serve the 11th District and will continue to work hard on the issues that will move New Jersey, and this country, forward.*



## Office Locations

### WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

1208 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5034

### PARSIPPANY OFFICE

8 Wood Hollow Road, Suite 203  
Parsippany, NJ 07054  
Phone: (973) 526-5668

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