

For Immediate Release:

Update Thursday, March 26, 2020

Lower Saucon Township is operating under a Declaration of Disaster Emergency and Council and our Administration are working closely to make sure essential government functions continue and resources are available for our residents. The Township offices are closed to the public, staff is working remotely from home, with a rotating schedule of working at the office, with phone messages and emergencies being addressed as they arise. Tax payments are being processed and continue to be accepted – through a drop box at the Township, mail service, at the financial institutions (based upon their hours) and online.

The Township is investigating online platforms in order to conduct the April 1, 2020 Council meeting and will post that information as soon as it becomes available.

Our Dog Park is closed as well as all of our playgrounds. Our Township parks remain open for passive use, but please use social distancing to enjoy this benefit which means staying away from close contact in public spaces.

All schools statewide will remain closed through at least April 6, 2020. As of March 19, there are adjusted meal hours for the students. The distribution time for breakfast and lunch provided by the district will be condensed to the hours of 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. beginning March 23, 2020 thus avoiding conflicts with the instructional/content timeframe of 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Also, please be reminded meals are not provided on Fridays as double meals are distributed on Thursdays.

Governor Wolf has issued a Stay-at-Home Order for Northampton County which was effective Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

Individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following allowable individual activities and allowable essential travel:

- Tasks essential to maintain health and safety, or the health and safety of their family or household members (including pets), such as obtaining medicine or medical supplies, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home
- Getting necessary services or supplies for themselves, for their family or household members, or as part of volunteer efforts, or to deliver those services or supplies to others to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking or running if they maintain social distancing
- To perform work providing essential products and services at a life-sustaining business
- To care for a family member or pet in another household
- Any travel related to the provision of or access to the above-mentioned individual activities or life-sustaining business activities
- Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons
- Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services
- Travel to return to a place of residence from an outside jurisdiction
- Travel required by law enforcement or court order.
- Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the commonwealth

The following operations are exempt:

- Life-sustaining business activities
- Health care or medical services providers
- Access to life-sustaining services for low-income residents, including food banks
- Access to child care services for employees of life-sustaining businesses that remain open as follows: child care facilities operating under the Department of Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning waiver process; group and family child care operating in a residence; and part-day school age programs operating under an exemption from the March 19, 2020 business closure Orders.
- News media
- Law enforcement
- The federal government
- Religious institutions

Individuals experiencing homelessness are not subject to this order but are strongly urged to find shelter and government agencies are urged to take steps needed to provide shelter for those individuals.

International students, foster youth, and any other students who would otherwise experience displacement or homelessness as a result of campus closures are exempt and may remain in campus housing.

At this time, law enforcement will be focused on ensuring that residents are aware of the order and informing the public of social distancing practices rather than enforcement. To report a noncompliant business, contact your local law enforcement agency's non-emergency number or the nearest Pennsylvania State Police station. Please do not call 911 or the Department of Community and Economic Development to file reports.

Our website has information on the Coronavirus and FAQ's. Click here to read: <http://lowersaucontownship.org/covid-19.html>

Our Police Department has planned for this situation and have been taking proactive measures to protect our officers and the residents we serve. **For all emergency calls, please call 9-1-1.** For all non-emergencies that do not require a police response, an officer will call you and then complete the report after gathering the necessary information. If the non-emergency call requires a police response to your residence or business an Officer will phone you in advance and request you to step outside, if possible. If you are unable or willing to step outside for any reasons, the officer will handle accordingly. The non-emergency number is 610-759-2200. Online non-emergency incident reporting is also available on the Lower Saucon Police Department Crimewatch page, www.lowerSauconPolice.org.

Police Department Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/lowersauconpd/>

Police Department Crimewatch page at www.lowerSauconPolice.org

The Saucon Valley Compost Center is closed until further notice. Click here for more information: <http://lowersaucontownship.org/svcompostcenter.html>

All Northampton County recycling events have been cancelled. Click here for more information: <http://lowersaucontownship.org/recycle.html>

The [Lehigh Valley Chamber](#) kicked off its #OpenWeStandLV Campaign! Businesses throughout the Greater Lehigh Valley are offering new and creative ways to get their products and services to their customers. Now more than ever, it is important that we support them! Visit the following link to check out the restaurants and services that are open and are offering their services. https://www.lehighvalleychamber.org/openwestand-hellertown.html?fbclid=IwAR1xWYz2ER-Uy6t-SaoUH54JQLYrpDGVY_z-OQnQaZBRvwBlwXUnb4irxOU

For up-to-date information, go to our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lowersaucon/> or our website at: <http://lowersaucontownship.org/index.html>.