

For Immediate Release:

Update Friday, June 5, 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 Administrative Offices and Public Works Department are working daily. The Township offices will remain closed to the public. Phone messages and mail are monitored every day. There is a drop box available for tax payments and permit applications. If you have a concern, please contact 610-865-3291 and leave a message. The Police Department will be operating under safe directives. We will keep you informed of any future developments. Thank you for your understanding.

Northampton County Moves into the Yellow Phase on Friday, June 5, 2020:

Governor Wolf's plan: Before a region moves from red to yellow there will need to be an average of less than 50 cases per 100,000 individuals over the course of 14 days.

Under the yellow designation, stay-at-home orders will be lifted and gatherings of up to 25 people will be allowed. Child care is open, although businesses must follow federal and state guidance for safety, social distancing and cleaning.

Most retail stores will be allowed to open, but curbside pickup and delivery is still preferable.

Gyms, casinos, theaters and other indoor recreational, wellness and entertainment venues will stay closed. Restaurants and bars will still be limited to carry out or delivery.

"The purpose of [the yellow] phase is to begin to power back up the economy while keeping a close eye on the public health data to ensure the spread of disease remains contained to the greatest extent possible.

A breakdown of the yellow phase:

Work & Congregate Setting Restrictions

- Telework must continue where feasible
- Businesses with in-person operations must follow business and building safety orders
- Child care open complying with guidance
- Congregate care and prison restrictions in place
- Schools remain closed for in-person instruction

Social Restrictions

- Stay-at-home order lifted for aggressive mitigation
- Large gatherings of more than 25 prohibited
- In-person retail allowable, curbside and delivery preferable
- Indoor recreation, health and wellness facilities and personal care services (such as gyms, spas, hair salons, nail salons and other entities that provide massage therapy), and all entertainment (such as casinos, theaters) remain closed
- Restaurants and bars limited to carry-out and delivery only

COVID-19 REOPENING PHASES		
	WORK & CONGREGATE SETTINGS	SOCIAL SETTINGS
RED PHASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LIFE-SUSTAINING BUSINESSES ONLY• RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR PRISON + CONGREGATE CARE• SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION• MOST CHILD CARE CLOSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STAY AT HOME ORDERED• LARGE GATHERINGS PROHIBITED• RESTAURANTS/BARS LIMITED TO CARRY-OUT + DELIVERY• ONLY TRAVEL FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING PURPOSES
YELLOW PHASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TELEWORK MUST CONTINUE WHERE FEASIBLE• BUSINESSES WITH IN-PERSON OPERATIONS MUST FOLLOW SAFETY ORDERS• CHILD CARE OPEN WITH WORKER + BUILDING SAFETY ORDERS• RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR PRISON + CONGREGATE CARE• SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STAY AT HOME RESTRICTIONS LIFTED IN FAVOR OF AGGRESSIVE MITIGATION• LARGE GATHERINGS PROHIBITED• IN-PERSON RETAIL ALLOWED CURBSIDE/DELIVERY PREFERRED• INDOOR RECREATION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS FACILITIES (SUCH AS GYMS, SPAS), AND ALL ENTERTAINMENT (SUCH AS CASINOS, THEATERS) REMAIN CLOSED• RESTAURANTS/BARS LIMITED TO CARRY-OUT + DELIVERY
GREEN PHASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALL BUSINESSES MUST FOLLOW CDC AND PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGGRESSIVE MITIGATION ORDERS LIFTED• INDIVIDUALS MUST FOLLOW CDC AND PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES

COVID-19 Updates:

Check our website for all COVID-19 updates at <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/covid-19.html>

Compost Center:

The Compost Center will return to normal operating hours starting the week of June 8, 2020:

- The center will no longer be open Monday – Thursday
- Starting on Friday, June 12, 2020, the Compost Center will be opened on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Mulch loading – the fee for the loader machine loading is reinstated. No fee if you hand load yourself.
- Occupancy Limit:
 - Combination of six vehicles allowed in the center at one time. All other vehicles will be held in line until there is an opening with the following guidelines and you must follow social distancing rules. One vehicle allowed at a time at the drop off bin. Three vehicles allowed at a time at the drop off pile. Two vehicles – one at each of the two mulch piles for loading.

For more information: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/svcompostcenter.html>

Tax Information:

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, The Pennsylvania Legislature is permitting municipalities waive the penalty fees for Real Estate Taxes. On May 6, 2020, Lower Saucon Township Council adopted

Resolution #48-2020 to waive all penalty fees up to December 31, 2020. The base amount of your Real Estate Tax bill will be accepted until December 31, 2020. After that date, the 10% penalty will apply. See Resolution #48-2020: www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/48-20.pdf . You can find up-to-date tax information on our website at <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/taxinfo.html>

Public Works Department:

The Public Works Department started summer hours on Monday, June 1, 2020 thru Friday, August 28, 2020 from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Please be advised the Public Works Department will begin its annual spring cleanup of streets from winter snow removal on Thursday, April 16, 2020. The sweeping process usually takes about two months to complete. Click here to see the schedule: www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/2020sweeper.pdf

Trails, Parks, Ballfields:

PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE SOCIAL DISTANCING ON THE SAUCON RAIL TRAIL AND IN OUR PARKS.

As parks and trails are increasingly being counted on as places where people can engage in regular physical activity and find respite, please practice social distancing. In some places, trails are becoming primary transportation routes—and walking and biking the most appropriate way to travel.

Our Dog Park remains CLOSED until further notice.

All public restrooms and water fountains will remain closed during the yellow and green phase.

We had a resident complaint Tuesday night (6/2) that an “organized baseball/softball group” was using the Town Hall field. At this time, there are no organized sports teams allowed on Township ball fields until we are in the green phase. According to the Governor’s plan, youth and adult sports with little to no contact can start in the green phase with limits/restrictions (guidelines are attached).

Q: Are organized team sports permitted during the Governor’s phased reopening plan?

Organized sports are only permitted in counties in the green phase of the Governor’s phased reopening plan. Organized team sports and events are defined as physical activity directed by adult or youth leaders that involves rules and formal practice and competition. This includes school and club sports as well as youth and adult formal activities. Physical activity conducted as part of summer programming is allowed. Activities and games with little or no physical contact are recommended. Professional sports are not included in the scope of this FAQ.

With this being said, if you are planning to use the field in the green phase (when announced) and beyond, please fill out field use form/request and return to the Township by June 19, 2020 with appropriate documents. Requests that were previously submitted for Spring use are void due to Covid-19. If fees were paid, we can refund or use with modified request. We will do our best to coordinate use of fields between all groups to be fair.

Click here for the field use form: <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/pdf/fielduse.pdf>

*Please note that our restrooms will not be open until the light blue phase (phase out). Port-a-potties will be available at each field until those fields with restrooms can be opened and note that those

potties are only serviced once a week.

Hellertown Pool:

The pool will remain closed. Based on the guidelines from the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Hellertown is not able to safely operate a pool of that size nor comply fully with all recommendations. The guidelines also point to a significant financial loss if they were to attempt to open the pool this season.

Traffic Alert:

Beginning Thursday June 4, 2020, the bridge on Old Philadelphia Pike between Black River Road & Walter Street has been changed to a single lane. Stop signs have been posted on each side of the bridge. We know this may inconvenience some motorists however it is necessary to prolong the life of the bridge.

Community Day:

The Hellertown Borough Council and Administration announced that Community Day 2020 is hereby cancelled due to COVID 19, as this is primarily supported through business and community sponsorship. Because of the prolonged closures and financial hardships they feel it's best to come back in 2021 after this crisis is past us.

Chamber Events:

The Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber & Steel Club presents Music in Dimmick Park 2020 Fall Concerts. Sunday, September 13, 2020: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Social Call; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Sunshine Symphony. Food provided by Bodega Bistro & Rita's Italian Ice. Adult beverages provided by Lost Tavern Brewing & Black River Farms.

September 26, 2020 – 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – The Bill Bauer Band; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – The Large Flowerheads. Food provided by Cool Treats, Cone Appetit, Smoke House Food Truck & Take a Taco. Adult beverages provided by Lost Tavern Brewing & Black River Farms.

Hellertown Area Library:

For those residents of Lower Saucon and Hellertown that do not have a library card, they are offering a temporary eCard at <https://www.hellertownlibrary.org/elibrary-card-sign-up.html> . They will email applicants a patron number that will allow access to all electronic resources as long as we are closed. After they reopen, the patron will have two weeks to stop into HAL to convert the number to a full privilege card. Find up-to-date information for the Hellertown Area Library at <http://www.lowersaucontownship.org/hal.html>

Email List:

Join our email list to receive timely notifications of announcements, events, cancellations, and much more. Click on the following link to sign up: www.lowersaucontownship.org/elist.html

Township Facebook Page:

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