

UPDATED Announcement from Supervisor Dickinson Regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic Response Plan: Local State of Emergency Declared

LAKE GEORGE SUPERVISOR DENNIS DICKINSON ANNOUNCES UPDATED STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE TOWN OF LAKE GEORGE TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS, INCLUDING THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE TOWN OF LAKE GEORGE

In what is the most rapidly changing public health emergency for upstate New York in recent years, Town of Lake George Supervisor has announced several updates to immediate steps that the Town is taking to decrease the spread of Coronavirus. Supervisor Dickinson indicated that public cooperation and understanding is of prime importance, and all need to take this seriously. *"We need to decrease the potential of the Coronavirus spread here in Lake George, and we do that by being proactive, not reactive. We are heeding the warnings and directives from the State and throughout the County to limit operations, reduce public event counts and cancel non-essential meetings and events. We have also declared a State of Emergency to allow us to properly respond to the situation as it develops."* The Supervisor said that *"to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we've learned social distancing is key. It will help "flatten the curve" and get us past this pandemic before it exacerbates to uncontrollable levels."* Supervisor Dickinson further stressed the importance of using "proper hygiene, carefulness and common sense" at this time.

Among the updates to measures put into effect on March 17th, the Town of Lake George has added new measures:

[UPDATE] A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED STARTING ON MARCH 17, EFFECTIVE AT 2:00PM: At this time, the Town is emulating what the County and other nearby municipalities have done to date by declaring a local State of Emergency. The State of Emergency allows the Town to take any future necessary precautions to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through local emergency orders. As of March 17th, no Emergency Orders have been declared in conjunction with the State of Emergency.

[UPDATE] TOWN HALL HOURS OF SERVICE REMAIN AT 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT PRESENT: Current Town Hall hours of operation remain in effect, except for Friday which will be a dark day for the rest of March and until further notice. Hours of operation could be scaled back (or curtailed} depending upon any changes in spread of COVID-19 and/or Federal or State mandates. As of March 16th, New York State has asked that all local governments operate with 50% staff, so until further notice, we will be operating at less than full capacity Monday through Thursday.

LIMIT VISITS TO TOWN HALL: Supervisor Dickinson is asking for public cooperation in severely limiting visits to Town Hall and other public Town buildings. If you are sick stay home and please do not come to Town Hall or any other public building. Use regular mail and email to correspond with the Town staff. Use the telephone to contact the Town, whenever possible. Please go to the Town of Lake George website at <https://lakegeorgetown.org/> to find out departmental email addresses and view updates and current information

on the Coronavirus. You can also find updates regarding the Town's response on the Town Facebook page, entitled 'Town of Lake George Municipal'. Only come to Town Hall if your business is urgent and you have no other options. Each visitor will be screened at the door and asked several questions, and will be permitted entrance for a limited period of time. If you have items to deliver, "drop boxes" will be placed outside of both the upper and lower Town Hall doors for collections of items that can be left.

TOWN HALL DOORS LOCKED WEEKDAYS: Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 all doors to Town Hall, 20 Old Post Road, will be locked during business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in an effort to limit the congregating of individuals in the building and resultant person to person contact. This will allow the government staff to continue to operate daily functions without having the possibility of getting unknowingly contaminated. As mentioned before, those that have urgent business will be screened at the door and allowed entrance for a temporary period of time while keeping a safe distance from employees inside.

TOWN COURT RESTRICTIONS: Town of Lake George Court, in compliance with the NYS Unified Court System as of Monday, March 16, 2020, has postponed non-essential functions of the courts until further notice; there will be no Court session this week or after, until otherwise specified. Please contact the Lake George Court offices via phone for additional information.

[UPDATE] BOARD MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL MAY: All regular monthly Planning and Zoning Board meetings have been cancelled for the remainder of this month and April; this includes the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, March 17th. In mid-April, the Town will review the COVID-19 status before making a decision on May board meetings. The regular Town Board meeting for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13th as well as the Public Hearing scheduled for 6:15 p.m. on the Climate Action Plan will also be postponed until further notice.

[UPDATE] TRANSFER STATION AND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Hours of operation for the Transfer Station will be temporarily changed. Transfer Station will be open to the public on Thursday, Friday and Saturday only, during normal hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.), although staff will not be providing personal assistance to residents during this time. The Transfer Station tickets will now have to be purchased directly at the Transfer Station office for the time being. The Highway Garage will be closed to the public until further notice, although essential services such as snow plowing will continue to be provided. Highway Road Crews are staying home and on an on-call basis and mechanics will be at the shop three (3) days a week.

[UPDATE] SENIOR CENTER AND FOOD PANTRY: The Senior Center will be closed for the time being. The Food Pantry will remain open for the time being and will be accepting donations for the needy at this time. Any residents hoping to utilize the food pantry will be required to call ahead and a bag of food will be distributed for residents to pick up at the lower level door at Town Hall during working hours. Additionally, we are asking for volunteers to help us with grocery shopping for the elderly as part of our Senior Outreach program. Please call Kim at 518-668-5722(x2) if you are able to volunteer.

[UPDATE] PARKS AND RECREATION / YOUTH COMMISSION: Both Diamond Point Beach and Usher's Park are closed to the public until further notice. Youth Commission activities have been postponed until further notice.