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Mayor

# City of Rahway

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## **UPDATE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) MARCH 16, 2020**

With updates regarding closures and cancelations related to the COVID-19 virus seemingly coming from just about everywhere right now, I want to help the residents of Rahway have clarity on the restrictions announced by Governor Murphy and those being implemented by the City of Rahway to help flatten the curve.

Today, Governor Murphy ordered that:

- All schools, public and private, as well as all colleges and universities be closed as of 3/18. (Note that private day care facilities are not included in this category.)
- All casinos, theaters, and gyms be closed
- All non-essential businesses close after 8:00pm. During the day, these businesses can remain open if they limit occupancy to no more than 50 people and adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- Essential businesses that are necessary for the health, safety and well-being of the public, such as supermarkets, pharmacies, medical clinics and service stations, can remain open after 8:00 p.m.
- Gatherings in excess of 50 people are prohibited.
- All bars and restaurants will be closed for dining after 8:00 p.m. tonight. Going forward, these establishments can only open for takeout or deliveries.
- All non-essential or emergency travel within New Jersey is discouraged. This will remain in force in the foreseeable future.
- All Motor Vehicle Commission facilities, including the one in Rahway will be closed until March 31st.

Along with these state-wide actions, the City of Rahway is taking the following measures to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 Virus by limiting exposure while continuing to provide municipal services:

- Rahway City Hall will be closed to the public effective Tuesday, March 17th through March 20th. I will be releasing contact information for the individual departments so that business can be conducted via phone or email to reduce potential exposure to all parties. Rahway City Hall will remain operational.
- We anticipate reopening to the public on March 23rd with shortened hours and limited in-person services. We will continue to encourage residents to conduct their business via phone and email.
- Tax payments can be made electronically, by mail, or via the drop box located outside of Rahway City Hall.
- Permit applications can also be dropped off in the drop box.
- In-person municipal court sessions are suspended until further notice. The Violations Bureau will also be closed. Payments can be made electronically, by mail, or via the drop-box outside Rahway Police Department.
- All zoning and planning board meetings will be canceled until further notice.
- Garbage and recycling collection will continue.
- Parking meter payments are suspended effective today.

- All parking permit payments must be made electronically.
- The Rahway Recreation Center, Senior Center, and Public Library will be closed until further notice.
- Regular cleaning of Rahway playgrounds will take place, although we strongly encourage parents to keep their children home.
- The Rahway Senior Transportation Service will continue to transport seniors for the purposes of grocery shopping, obtaining medication, and medical appointments.

Regarding the Rahway School System:

- Schools closed for students beginning today and will remain closed until further notice. Parents/guardians should be sure that they have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account set up. Please visit [rahway.net](http://rahway.net) for additional information and updates.
- All Rahway school events have been canceled until further notice.
- Rahway Schools have implemented a “grab and go” meal plan for students that are part of the free and reduced lunch program. Information regarding this can be found on [Rahway.net](http://Rahway.net)

Beginning today, SUEZ Water Rahway is enacting the following measures to ensure the health and well-being of customers and employees:

- SUEZ offices are closed to the general public. Customers who pay bills in person must utilize online payment, pay by phone or visit a third-party payment location.
- Field service appointments, including meter changes, are suspended. Field staff will only perform emergency or critical work.
- SUEZ Rahway will strictly be focusing on emergency related work only, which includes main breaks, service leaks that may cause property damage, and/or water quality issues

In the upcoming days, there will be even more information available and provided to you. I want to remind everyone that these measures are taken with an abundance of caution. Our primary goal is to keep our residents safe, healthy, and informed. Continue to take your own precautionary measures. Practice social distancing, wash your hands, and check on your elderly neighbors. I will continue to keep Rahway updated. Until then, stay safe and healthy.