

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2020

Dear Village of Northport Families and Businesses:

As you probably already know, New York, like most states in the country, has undergone an increase in positive cases of the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, locally we have also seen an increase in the spread of Covid-19. Governor Cuomo has announced new restrictions to combat COVID -19 and has asked all local officials to assist in this endeavor. The Village of Northport has always been pro-active in combating the virus and our hard work paid off in the fact that our percentages continue to be one of the lowest of any local community of our size.

However, due to the “uptick” in Covid-19 cases, I, together with the Village Trustees, have implemented the following steps to combat the spread of COVID-19 cases in Northport Village and surrounding areas. First, led by Trustee Mercy Smith our COVID-19 group leader, we will be meeting regularly once again to locate and secure necessary equipment for our Village; keep informed of the most recent mandates and Executive Orders; monitor the COVID-19 numbers and outbreaks in our community; make sure our Police Department, Fire Department and Village employees have all of the proper equipment and assistance to perform their job safely; and keep our residents safe and businesses open. Unfortunately, we will not be having any public gatherings for our annual Christmas Tree lighting and Menorah lighting, but will continue these beautiful traditions by having a public Christmas Tree and Menorah for the public to enjoy individually, and through social distancing.

In order to achieve the goal of keeping our COVID-10 numbers low, we are once again instituting a partial closure of Village Hall. Residents that need to do business in Village Hall **must make an appointment first**. We want to continue to keep Village Hall open, but we must do it in a safe manner for both the employees and residents. Second, until further notice our Village Board Meetings and ancillary boards (Zoning, Planning and Architectural Review) shall all be conducted virtually. Please see our website for the links to the respective Board Meetings. Third, we will be enforcing all of Governor Cuomo’s Executive Orders including but not limited to certain businesses closing at 10:00 p.m., and will strongly encourage the wearing of masks and social distancing. **Please wear a mask when you leave your house and go out in public.**

Governor Cuomo has made it very clear that the degree of restrictions locally is based on “clusters.” If we continue to keep our numbers low, we will be subject to less restrictions. If our numbers go up we will be subject to greater restrictions. Therefore, it is crucial for our safety and health and our business community that we all work together to keep our positive COVID-19 numbers low in Northport Village.

Finally, as we enter the holiday season, it is imperative that we actively engage in following New York State Department of Health Guidelines along with CDC Guidelines. Simple things such as frequently washing your hands, wearing a mask, stay home if you feel sick, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth and doing the best you can in social distancing will have a large impact in reducing COVID-19 cases and stopping any potential “cluster” from coming to Northport Village.

I together with Trustees Ian Milligan, Mercy Smith, Tom Kehoe and Dave Weber. Jr., want to assure you that Northport Village is fully prepared and will continue to monitor and communicate with our residents and businesses. We want to wish you and your families a very healthy and happy Thanksgiving. We are confident that together as a community and as a Village we will see "light at the end of the tunnel."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through our Northport Village website at <https://northportny.gov>.

Regards,

**DAMON McMULLEN**

**Mayor - Village of Northport**