



TOWN OF DOVER

MAYOR CAROLYN BLACKMAN, THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, AND THE DOVER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR SAFELY ENJOYING THE HOLIDAYS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2020

Mayor Carolyn Blackman, the Board of Aldermen, and the Dover Department of Health realize the importance of the upcoming holiday season. Thanksgiving is a time to for family and friends to get together. However, with COVID-19 still in our present, it is imperative we do so in a way that reduces transmissions. On September 1, 2020 our total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases were 738 and as of November 20th, there were 1,235 confirmed cases.

Mayor Blackman stated, "Striking the right balance between keeping our local economy going, maintaining a positive mental outlook, and staying safe is the tight-rope walk that we have been on since March and we will continue to be on for the foreseeable future. During this Holiday Season, this intricate balance is a major concern as the Pandemic has everyone reassessing their social plans in unprecedented ways. I ask that everyone follow the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health and the CDC to ensure a safe and joyous Holiday Season."

Alderwoman Judy Rugg (D-2nd Ward), who is also a Registered Nurse and a member of the Board of Aldermen standing Health Committee stated, "Until we have a safe and effective vaccine that is universally available, the single best way for us to combat COVID-19 is through our behavior; specifically, by following the CDC and New Jersey Department of Health guidelines, which include, but are not limited to wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing, even when dealing with those we love. The truest expression of our affection for others is by following those simple guidelines. We ask that you consider this during the Holiday Season."

As part of the Town's ongoing COVID-19 educational campaign, the following guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health for the Holidays is suggested:

- A. Voluntarily limit the number of gatherings in their homes and the number of people in attendance at any event to 10 individuals; and
- B. Ask guests to wear face coverings when they cannot social distance; and
- C. Make hand sanitizer available for guests; and
- D. Invite people only from your local area as much as possible; and
- E. Remind invited guests to stay home if they have been exposed to the virus in the last 14 days, are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or recently travelled to an area or a state with high COVID-19 infection rates; and

- F. Limit the number of people handling or serving food—for example, consider identifying one person to serve all food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils; and
- G. Remind guests to wash their hands before serving or eating food; and
- H. Use single use disposable cups, plates, utensils, hand towels, and paper towels; and
- I. Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible; and
- J. Consider keeping a list of guests who attended for potential future contract tracing needs.

Remember, that asymptomatic individuals, people who neither feel ill, nor present as ill, are still capable of spreading the disease. So, the mere fact that someone does not appear to be sick is not an indication of being coronavirus free.

Additionally, to help flatten the curve, the Dover Department of Health in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health, continues to contact trace and monitor cases in our community. The Dover Police Department along with the Department of Health, Code Enforcement Department, and the Clerk's Office is also continuing to enforce Governor Murphy's Executive Orders, as well as our own Municipal Executive Orders to ensure our collective safety.

Residents with additional questions are encouraged to visit our website for helpful links and other information or reach out their Alderman or Alderwoman or the Mayor.