

TOWN OF SUFFIELD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2020

Suffield Advances Preparedness - Declares Emergency Due To First COVID-19 Cases

Suffield Conn.: First Selectman Melissa M. Mack, declared a state of Emergency today in the Town of Suffield after confirming the town's first two positive cases of COVID-19 occurring in residents ages 58 and 59 as reported by the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD). It is not known if they have been hospitalized at this time.

"I am saddened to report these two cases and I know that all of us will keep them in our thoughts and prayers," said Mack. "But I want to reassure residents that the Emergency Declaration is just another required step in our phased approach and not an ominous sign. Residents should not be alarmed, but should continue to take necessary precautions to prevent further spread. We have a high level of confidence that other unconfirmed cases are in our community. The school district's decision to close schools has certainly reduced exposure."

The declaration enables the town to take practical measures necessary to get assistance, spend money and receive state and federal reimbursements due to the pandemic.

Town officials including the First Selectwoman, Emergency Management Director John Spencer, emergency services chiefs and Superintendent of Schools Van Tassel worked closely with NCDHD staff to prepare for this crisis since January. Their phased approach included initial steps to ensure safety for vulnerable populations including the elderly with an overriding goal to mitigate the spread of the virus. "We've been fortunate to be mostly proactive and not reactive due to this advanced planning," noted Mack.

"With the two confirmed cases bringing COVID-19 into Suffield, our recommendations remain the same, but it is now more important than ever for residents to practice social distancing," said Spencer. Patrice Sulik, NCDHD Director, emphasizes the importance of adults and children remaining home as much as possible.

The novel (new) coronavirus emerged in China in December of 2019. Symptoms include dry cough, fever and shortness of breath. Officials advise residents to follow guidance provided by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#) and report illness to your primary care doctor immediately.

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Additional information will continue to be available through the town website ([Emergency Alert](#) page), social media and email distribution lists. Residents are asked to sign up for updates via [Town News](#) and emergency notifications through [CTAlert](#). For questions, contact Kim Worthington at kworthington@suffieldct.gov.

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