



March 16, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

The response to this public health emergency changes daily, as the number of cases of COVID-19 continues to rise. Today, the Governor announced his Executive Order mandating the closure of all New Jersey schools with no end date provided, along with numerous other measures that will be implemented statewide. On March 15, 2020, the Village of Ridgewood signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency, which states that all public and Board of Education recreational fields, all school grounds, all tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts, and playgrounds within the Village of Ridgewood are closed.

This is no longer guidance. If you see people congregating on district or Village fields, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, please contact the police. At this point, no one will get in trouble, but they will be told to leave the premises. We must continue to monitor our children and remind them that this is not the time to congregate in person, even in small numbers. Parents, please don't plan trips during this time, as we do not know if there will be quarantine requirements upon return.

**REMINDER:** It is critical that everyone in the community sign up for the Village of Ridgewood E-Notice System at <http://www.ridgewoodnj.net/village-info/enotices-and-alerts-registration>. Please do this immediately so that you can get vital information about the Village as it pertains to this public health crisis. If you have not already done so, I also ask that you also follow the district on twitter [@RwdPub Schools](https://twitter.com/RwdPub_Schools) and [@RWDSupt](https://twitter.com/RWDSupt), and please follow your schools. We send a lot of important information through our twitter accounts, as well as the district Facebook page [@RidgewoodPublicSchools](https://www.facebook.com/RidgewoodPublicSchools).

The Google sites being utilized for home instruction have all been updated today to include mental health support information and resources. To view these sites, please visit the homepage of the district website at [www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us](http://www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us). There are links on the K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 home instruction websites for student support services, which include guidance counselors and school-based mental health. If any students in your household are experiencing distress, please reach out as soon as possible. We have implemented alternative means to provide essential student support services so that our students come out of this closure mentally strong.

**INSTRUCTION:** Overall, the first day went well. We had our glitches, but we are working to resolve those issues and make adjustments. Our success is due to the hard work of our administrators and staff, all of which was done in a short amount of time and while regular school days were still in session. If your child is experiencing tech issues, please utilize the Chromebook Help Form. Our excellent IT staff is working hard to address any issues promptly. I thank everyone for their contributions.

### **TODAY'S GAME SUGGESTIONS:**

- Younger kids - Boggle; My First Bananagrams
- Older kids - Classic Bananagrams; Card Games: Spit and War.



Other things you can do (not my original ideas):

- Exercise for your mental and physical health.
- Try a new recipe.
- Bake some chocolate chip cookies. I tend to like crunchy chocolate chip cookies. No one, and I mean no one, bakes better chocolate cookies than my sister-in-law Leslie. No soft chocolate cookies for me. Someday real soon, I hope someone can prove me wrong. (Hint)
- I bet there is a closet or two that needs to be cleaned out and organized.
- Check out electronic scrapbooking.
- Do some yard work. I did my spring clean-up yesterday.
- [Ridgewood Public Library](http://RidgewoodPublicLibrary.org), while closed for walk-in traffic, is up and running electronically for e-books, movies, music, and magazines.

Continue to visit your family and friends through FaceTime or some other “face to face” application. Get into a routine, and stay in touch electronically with your family and friends.

Please visit [Ridgewood.k12.nj.us](http://Ridgewood.k12.nj.us) for all the information. I wish you good health!

Sincerely,



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools



Village of Ridgewood  
County of Bergen  
State of New Jersey

**PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**TO ALL CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY, AND TO ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, DIVISIONS AND BUREAUS OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY:**

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, the spread of COVID-19 within New Jersey constitutes an imminent public health hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of one or more municipalities or counties of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of New Jersey declared the concurrent invocation of both a State of Emergency pursuant to N.J.S.A. App.A.:9-33 *et seq.* and a Public Health Emergency as contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 *et seq.*, which invoked the authority and powers contemplated by N.J.S.A. 26:13-3, the Emergency Health Powers Act, and remains in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, in response to the health emergency posed by COVID-19, the Bergen County Executive issued Executive Order No. 2020-01, which declared a State of Emergency in Bergen County and established mandates to combat COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Bergen County Executive issued Supplemental Executive Order No. 2020-01A, which directed further action to be taken to combat COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States, by the authority of sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (SSA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5), declared and proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the powers vested in me by chapter 251 of the Laws of 1942, as amended and supplemented, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et. seq.; N.J.S.A. 40:48-1(6); and ordinances enacted pursuant thereto; and N.J.S.A. 2C:33- et. seq.; I have declared that a Public Health Emergency exists within the Village of Ridgewood; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid laws authorize the promulgation of such orders, rules and regulations, as are necessary to meet the various problems which have or may be presented by such an emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, by reason of the public health conditions which presently exist in all areas of the Village of Ridgewood which may affect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and persons within the Village of Ridgewood; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that certain measures must be taken to insure that the authorities will be unhampered in their efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 within the Village of Ridgewood, to maintain law and order, and further in order to protect the public health, welfare and safety of persons and property of the residents affected by the condition.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AFORESAID LAWS**, effective immediately, and until further notice, I do hereby promulgate and declare a State of Emergency within the Village of Ridgewood, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, and do hereby order and direct that:

1. Ridgewood Village Hall, The Stable, and all Village offices will be closed to the public (with staff working) effective beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 until further notice, with the exception of the Ridgewood Police desk, which will remain open to the public.

2. All public and Board of Education recreational fields, all school grounds, all tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts, and playgrounds within the Village of Ridgewood are closed, and all organized sports activities within all municipal and Board of Education parks/fields, as well as recreational activities run by the Village of Ridgewood or Board of Education are hereby postponed until further notice.

3. All public meetings of non-essential municipal boards and committees are suspended. The Village Council, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment will continue to meet but will discourage in-person attendance by members of the public, while making available means of remote, telephone access by the public for public comment.

4. All places of public gatherings shall limit attendance at any event or gathering to 250 or fewer persons, in accordance with the directive issued by the Governor of the State of New Jersey and in order to comply with CDC guidelines for "social distancing."

5. All residents are encouraged to stay within their own properties, avoid large groups and maintain “social distancing” in accordance with CDC guidance.

6. All workplaces within the Village are strongly encouraged to implement and observe CDC workplace social distancing measures, such as replacing in-person meetings with teleworking, modifying, postponing or canceling mass gatherings.

7. All places of public gathering hosting 50 or more persons are strongly urged to use their best efforts to record the name, address, phone or other appropriate contact information of all employees, patrons, visitors, vendors or any other persons within their facilities in order to aid health officials in the event contact tracing activities should become necessary in connection with their operations.

8. All restaurants and bars are urged to encourage take-out and curbside delivery in lieu of in-restaurant dining, and to reduce seating capacity to increase space between groups of patrons to assist in “social distancing” in accordance with CDC guidelines, by maintaining a distance of 6 feet between groups of diners and patrons.



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Jeremy P. Kleiman  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
Village of Ridgewood

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March 15, 2020  
Date