

Good Evening Harwinton Residents:

As your First Selectman I want to assure you that we are working tirelessly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to continue to bring to you the most up to date COVID19 information from the Local, State and Federal level. As you may or may not know Harwinton had its first confirmed case of COVID19 with a couple cases under investigation.

We are urging Residents to 'Stay Home & Stay Safe'. My number one priority is your health, safety and welfare. I continue to work with my Emergency Team and other local community leaders to prevent the spread of this virus.

Just to update you on the Town's most recent steps under our Declaration of Emergency.

- Continued multiple teleconferences with Local, State and Federal Health Departments & Legislators.
- Only essential Town Staff is required to report to work on a rotating basis.
- The Library and Town Hall are closed to the public. If you absolutely have to come in you must make an appointment with that Department. After proper screening you may or may not be admitted.
- We are urging all Residents to use our Pay Online, Email and Phone, to communicate and do business with the Town and its Staff.
- If you have the capabilities, it is essential that you follow us on www.harwinton.us and the Official Town of Harwinton FB Page. We are urging all Residents to share this information.
- All questions about COVID-19 can be directed to COVID19@harwinton.us.
- Please sign-up for our Emergency Alert System that is located on our Emergency Management page on our Town Website.
- The next two weeks, hopefully, will show the peak of the spread of the virus.
- We are monitoring Executive Orders daily and obtaining legal guidance as needed.
- Last week we formerly Declared a State of Emergency.
- We continue to have vigorous sanitizing schedules for all buildings.
- We have urged religious leaders to cancel all Masses and gatherings.
- We have worked with the local bank to conduct window business only and increase their sanitation efforts for their ATMs and windows.
- All Town, Board and Commission meetings are canceled.
- All Rentals are suspended until further notice.
- All playgrounds have been closed.
- Open-space walking trails remain open.
- We are conducting weekly Staff and Emergency Team teleconferences.
- We are working with small local restaurants to continue to feed our most in need.
- We are checking in on our Seniors in our Elderly Housing to ensure that they are safe.
- Anyone that has a relative in Harwinton and would like us to check on them please email us at COVID19@harwinton.us.
- Numerous other ongoing activities are in progress and you will be updated accordingly.

I cannot stress enough, through this unprecedented time in our most recent history, how critical it is for everyone to adhere to the strongly recommended 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' Policy. Please respect the importance of social distancing strictly for you and everyone else's safety. Please do not go out unnecessarily so that we can get through this pandemic together and with the best possible outcome.

I will continue to keep you updated as we brave this storm together.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Criss

First Selectman, Town of Harwinton