

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Department
County of Warren
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Warren County's Three Senior Centers to Close in Response to COVID-19

(WHITE TOWNSHIP, NJ – March 12, 2020) – Effective tomorrow, March 13, 2020, Warren County congregate nutrition sites – the Hackettstown, Washington and North Warren locations – will be closed for activities and congregate meals until further notice.

Warren County Human Services Department announced the measure in an effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“We are taking these actions out of an abundance of caution for our residents,” said Freeholder James R. Kern III, freeholder liaison to the Health, Human Services, and Public Safety departments. “We don’t make these decisions lightly, and are doing everything we can to make sure seniors continue to receive the meals that they count on daily.”

Division of Aging staff, volunteers and Warren County Transportation will be delivering a hot meal and a two-day supply of shelf stable meals to seniors who already had registered to attend the congregate site on March 13. Delivery of these meals will occur before 1 p.m. on March 13 and recipients are asked to remain in their residences to accept the meal delivery.

All residents who already were recipients of home-delivered meals will receive their meals as normal.

Effective Monday, March 16, the Division will be arranging biweekly meal delivery to the consumers of congregate nutrition who have requested a meal delivery and those who currently receive home delivered meals. Arrangements are being made to deliver a supply that includes a combination of frozen meals and shelf stable meals for every Congregate and home-delivered meal consumer who is currently registered with the Division, through an alternating delivery schedule across the County.

In addition, the Division will be obtaining an additional supply of frozen meals and shelf stable meals to be used for senior consumers in need. The congregate meal sites in Hackettstown, North Warren and Washington will be our local meal distribution facilities for the interim period

to help us package and deliver the meals. They will not be operational for any senior programs including health and wellness initiatives.

Senior residents who receive meals are advised to contact the Division to cancel, change or report any concerns related to delivery of their scheduled meals.

The Division of Aging is not accepting new applicants at the congregate nutrition sites at this time due to temporary site closures. However, their information will be obtained and individuals placed on a waiting list to be contacted once the sites reopen. If senior residents in the county are in need of emergency meals, please reach us at the Division.

The Division plans to continue its operations to deliver meals for its registered consumers through door delivery. Additional options such as drop shipping is being explored at this time and consumers will be notified when this becomes available.

Phillipsburg Senior Center Updates: Phillipsburg senior center is open for normal operations on March 13, 2020, but will be closed for the week of March 16, 2020. However, their staff has indicated that meals will be delivered to the consumers who have been registered to attend their congregate nutrition site during their closure next week.

For any further questions or concerns, please reach out to the Warren County Division of Aging at 908-475-6591.

To reiterate:

All Warren County-operated senior centers (Hackettstown, North Warren, Washington) will be closed effectively immediately.

All activities at these county-operated senior centers will be cancelled until further notice.

Warren County Transportation is operating on a normal schedule.

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