

For Immediate Release:

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Middle Smithfield Township: Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic



Middle Smithfield Township, March 18, 2020— On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency (attached) as a precautionary measure, in response to the escalating COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and the accompanying public health concerns. This action follows the emergency declarations put forth by both the federal and state governments respectively.

By issuing a Declaration of Disaster Emergency, Middle Smithfield Township can better meet the needs of our residents due to the pandemic COVID-19 outbreak. Specifically, the process by which the Township may employ temporary workers, rent equipment, purchase supplies and materials, or enter into contracts and agreements for the performance of public works as may be required to fulfill emergency needs, is streamlined during a declared emergency. These actions can all be completed without the need for the time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by the law.

The Middle Smithfield Township Emergency Management Coordinator, Kevin Dixon, will coordinate the activities of the Township's emergency response, take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, aid in maintaining essential public services and take any other emergency response action deemed necessary.

In addition to the Declaration of Disaster Emergency, the Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors has taken additional steps,

- All Public and Vendor access to the municipal building is by appointment only, with the goal of eliminating walk-in traffic. This measure is intended to protect members of the public and municipal employees from both "person to person" spread and "community spread" of COVID-19.
- Our standard practice is that anyone who enters the municipal facility is asked to record their name and contact information for tracking purposes. However, our goal is to not have visitors, but conduct business via telephone, email, ZOOM meetings/virtual meetings, etc.
- All non-emergency meetings and non-time-sensitive meetings of the Township will be postponed until further notice.
- Additional sanitization of the municipal facilities is being conducted.

▪ Township employees will currently continue to perform their regular duties during normal business hours, at their normal work locations. Employee needs and safety, however, are a priority, and Township work protocols will be regularly re-evaluated, on an ongoing basis. The township is equipped for many functions to be performed remotely, if necessary, which will allow for continuity of municipal service.

- The township will provide regular updates of township information, as needed, on the township website, www.MiddleSmithfieldTownship.com and social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Linked In).

<https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/18165/middle-smithfield-township-covid-19-updates/>

About Middle Smithfield Township

Filled with rich history, beautiful scenery, and a thriving business district, Middle Smithfield Township is on the move. The Schoonover Municipal Center is located at 147 Municipal Drive, East Stroudsburg, four miles north of Marshalls Creek near the Pocono Square Shopping Center. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

For more information visit us on the web:

<http://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com/>, <http://facebook.com/pages/mstownship>

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