

Dear Quogue Residents,

We have all seen the disheartening (to me, at least) reports of many people traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday as there are spikes in incidences of the coronavirus all over. To underscore the point, Governor Cuomo announced yesterday that there are two new “yellow” precautionary zones established in our area—one in Riverhead extending down toward Flanders and the other in the Hampton Bays area. For those interested, the maps can be seen at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-updated-covid-19-micro-cluster-focus-zones-4>. Being in a yellow zone means that the gathering limit moves from 50 people to 25 (except at private residences where it is 10), non-essential businesses may remain open, and you can only have up to four people at your table at a restaurant. Schools remain open with an obligation to increase testing of students and staff (that testing has occurred in Hampton Bays with good results, confirming that schools seem to be relatively safe places). Our local hospitals are still not seeing a huge number coronavirus cases (8 and 9, respectively as of yesterday), but the numbers are definitely up. There are new testing centers in Hampton Bays (Red Creek Park) and at the County Center in Riverhead. Generally, at these and other testing centers appointments are required. To find a testing center, you can try <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

The Quogue numbers are also up a little—25 in total at last look on the County’s interactive map, up from 21 about a week ago. No, I do not know who the positive people are. (See HIPAA.)

For people travelling into our area from non-contiguous states, the Governor’s travel protocols are in place—14 days of quarantine with an opportunity to “test out” of part of it by getting a negative test before traveling and four days after arrival. See <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>. It might be useful to emphasize what it means to quarantine. From the Governor’s website:

#### **Shelter Requirements Precautionary Quarantine**

- The individual must not be in public or otherwise leave the quarters that they have identified as suitable.
- Separate quarters with separate bathroom facilities for each individual or family group. Access to a sink with soap and water, and paper towels is needed.
- The contact must have a way to self-quarantine from household members as soon as fever or other symptoms develop, in a separate room. There must be a door that separates it from the rest of the living area and has its own bathroom. Given that an exposed individual might become ill while sleeping, the exposed individual must sleep in a separate bedroom from household members.
- Cleaning supplies, e.g. household cleaning wipes, must be provided in any shared bathroom.
- If an individual sharing a bathroom becomes symptomatic, all others sharing the bathroom will be considered exposed persons until the symptomatic individual is appropriately evaluated and cleared.
- Food must be delivered to the individual’s quarters.
- Quarters must have a supply of face masks for individuals to put on if they become symptomatic.
- Garbage must be bagged and left outside by the door of each of the quarters for routine pick up. Special handling is not required.
- Individuals should self-monitor for fever and other symptoms of COVID-19 daily throughout the duration of the quarantine period.

Now is a good time to be cautious but not panicky. I think it is fair to say that we all have unknowingly been in the presence of someone with the coronavirus when out and about. If we are doing what we should be doing—wearing masks, keeping a social distance and avoiding extended close contact whenever possible with people who are not in our own household—we should be fine.

For anyone who is in quarantine or otherwise unable to pick up his or her mail, the Village Office has the name and number of a person who will do that for you. Call the Office at 631-653-4498. Also, if anyone wants to volunteer to help others, you can leave your information with the Village Office.

I do hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday Zooming, Face Timing or similarly visiting remotely with all who cannot be with you this year. And be thankful. We are all living in Quogue after all.

Peter Sartorius  
Mayor