



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Division of Health  
201 Wheatsworth Road  
Hamburg, New Jersey 07419  
Telephone: (973) 579-0370  
FAX: (973) 579-0399

CAROL NOVBIT  
*Administrator*

JAMES R. MCDONALD III, M.S.  
*Director / Health Officer*

## County of Sussex

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 18, 2020

**CONTACT:**  
**James R. McDonald III, M.S.**  
**Director / Health Officer**  
**973-579-0370**

### **2019 Novel Coronavirus**

(Hardyston, NJ) Sussex County Freeholder Director Sylvia Petillo and the Sussex County Division of Health (SCDOH) announce three positive cases of COVID-19 in Sussex County. The SCDOH was notified of three positive cases in Sussex County on March 18, 2020. The three cases reside in Sparta Township, Vernon Township and Frankford Township. The SCDOH has been working to identify individuals who came into contact with these residents. Anyone identified as a close contact, per New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines, is directed to self-quarantine and is being monitored by the SCDOH.

“Our community’s health and safety are of primary concern to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. We are taking all possible steps to ensure the well-being of Sussex County and our surrounding communities,” said Freeholder Director Sylvia Petillo.

There has been concern over the recent global outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that has been spreading throughout the United States since the beginning of this year. The Sussex County Division of Health understands those concerns and is working closely with the

[Type text]

New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local healthcare providers to monitor and respond to the situation. The SCDOH is committed to ensuring a coordinated, timely, and effective response to public health concerns like COVID-19. County-wide enhanced surveillance is in place to identify potential cases of COVID-19.

All residents should continue to monitor their health and exercise good respiratory and hand hygiene habits. Actions you can take to help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 include the following:

- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Practice social distancing to reduce community spread of germs.
- Families and individuals should create or update their emergency plans.

The Sussex County website has a wide array of information available to the public on COVID-19 and links to both the CDC and NJDOH, at [www.sussex.nj.us](http://www.sussex.nj.us). You can also visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and the New Jersey Department of Health at [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health). Residents are also encouraged to call the NJ Coronavirus and Poison Center Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 or 1-800-962-1253 if using an out of state phone line with any questions.