

Dear Quogue Residents,

In new guidance out this morning, New York State has modified the definition of “essential business.” You can check out the entire provision at <https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026>. As to Quogue the principal changes are to narrow the definition of essential landscaping to exclude landscaping for “cosmetic purposes” and to state expressly that “golf courses are not essential.” Additionally, parks and other open spaces are essential, but playgrounds and other areas of congregation where social distancing may not be observed are not.

Please abide by these restrictions. The point is that we are supposed to stay home, not find ways to bend the rules.

Also, yesterday the New York Department of Health issued several advisories, including one on the use of masks. The release states in part, “Considering this new evidence, NYSDOH supports members of the public who choose to wear cloth face coverings in public settings, where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community transmission.” I would add post offices. As everyone is aware, Suffolk County is definitely a hot spot. The advisory went on to say: “It is important to emphasize that maintaining social distancing, by staying at least 6 feet apart when in public and staying home whenever possible, is critical to slow the spread of the virus, even if wearing a face covering. While cloth face coverings may not prevent the wearer from becoming infected, they might help slow spread from people who have the virus and are unaware.”

It is essential that we all follow these admonitions to help all of us stay safe and beat this virus.