

Dear Quogue Residents,

Not too much to report, but here are a few updates:

1. As you probably know, the Long Island region remains on NY Pause, having not yet achieved the metrics set by Governor Cuomo. The principal stumbling block appears to be failure to achieve 14 consecutive days of declining hospital deaths (based on a three-day rolling average). As of May 18, Long Island stood at six consecutive days.
2. The Village of Quogue has had 10 confirmed cases of COVID-19 according to the Suffolk County map at <https://gis.suffolkcountyny.gov/portal/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/76a26a0c83634266aa9efc35bd4f1975>. That is a bit better on a per capita basis than most of the surrounding areas.
3. Testing has expanded in New York. Currently, testing is available to:
 - Any individual who has COVID-19 symptoms
 - Any individual who has had contact with a person known to be positive with COVID-19
 - Any individual who is subject to a precautionary or mandatory quarantine
 - Any individual who is employed as a health care worker, nursing home worker or first responder
 - Any essential worker who directly interacts with the public while working
 - Any individual who would return to the workplace in Phase 1 of the state's reopening plan (construction and manufacturing)You can find nearby sites here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>
4. New York State is still hiring contact tracers, who would be trained to work remotely to support the NYS Department of Health and local health departments to perform COVID-19 contact tracing in communities across NYS. The responsibility of a Contact Tracer is to reach out to the contacts of anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 to assess symptoms, ensure compliance with quarantine, and determine social support needs. Here is a link to apply for this essential position: <https://careers-pcgus.icims.com/jobs/5244/contact-tracer/job?mobile=false&width=1140&height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240>
5. Based on recent reports, our local hospitals, Northwell Peconic Bay and Stony Brook Southampton, are doing well with the number of hospitalizations and ICU patients having declined significantly. It appears that elective surgery will resume next week.
6. Over the weekend, the Governor made a few changes to the essential business guidance at <https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026>. Tennis is specifically permitted and golf restrictions have been loosened, which should allow single-rider golf carts. Planting by landscapers is now permitted.
7. Second-half tax bills for the Town of Southampton are due on May 31. Don't forget them. Village tax bills will go out at the end of May and will be payable by July 1. While there is some discussion locally of a possible extension of the due date for people adversely affected by the coronavirus, that would require action by the State, and there has been no word from it.
8. Many, many people are getting packages at the post office, and it has limited space. If you are expecting packages, please pick them up regularly. Don't wait to be called. If you want to try to avoid the post office, see paragraph 3 in my email dated May 6 on the Announcements page of the Village website: <http://www.villageofquogueny.gov/polAnnouncements.cfm>

9. The Village Beach will open at 10:00 am next Saturday. The weather forecast looks like low 60's with a pretty good chance of rain, unfortunately. We should not be surprised. It's still May.
10. We have a lot of extra trash appearing on the sides of the roads, particularly in frequently-visited areas like the public dock. I understand that people are reluctant to pick up other people's trash these days, but there is no excuse for dropping gloves and the like on the side of the road.
11. Another appeal—clean up after your dog!

Stay safe, everyone.

Peter Sartorius, Mayor