



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 19, 2020**

## **Monmouth County has 32 positive cases of COVID-19**

FREEHOLD, NJ –Monmouth County Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone and Freeholder Deputy Director Susan M. Kiley have announced that, as of 9 a.m. this morning, the New Jersey Department of Health is reporting 32 positive cases of COVID-19 in Monmouth County.

As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the public and the media. News updates and information regarding County events and programs affected by the COVID-19 situation are posted at [www.visitmonmouth.com](http://www.visitmonmouth.com).

“We are getting information out to you as quickly as possible while also keeping in constant communication with State, County, local and health officials,” said Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone. “We are asking all residents to do their part to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Please remember that the best defense against COVID-19 is to practice safe respiratory hygiene and take steps to prevent the spread of germs including practicing social distancing, staying home when sick, washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.”

As of Saturday, March 14, all Monmouth County Library branches and the Monmouth County Park System buildings closed to the public. County golf courses and park spaces remain open.

As of Monday, March 16, public access is restricted from all buildings with the exception of the Monmouth County Division of Social Services (MCDSS). For MCDSS, protections have been put into place to ensure that there is no physical contact between Monmouth County employees and the residents seeking services.

All Monmouth County employees are available to residents by phone and by email.

“I can’t emphasize enough that your mental health is just as important as your physical health,” said Freeholder Deputy Director Susan M. Kiley, liaison to the Departments of Health and Human Services. “If you, or someone you know, are having difficulty dealing with this unprecedented situation, please call the crisis counselors available at the County’s Health Department hotline.”

Crisis counselors from the Monmouth County Division of Behavioral Health are available through the phone banks to help residents who may be experiencing stress or anxiety due to the evolving situation. The counselors will provide County residents with guidance to help them through this challenging time.

The Monmouth County Health Department phone bank is now open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can be reached at 732-845-2070.