

## Cheltenham Township COVID-19 Updates

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*Posted on Friday March 20, 2020*

Board of Commissioners Web Conference Information for March 18, 2020 Meeting. Current r COVID-19 Testing Protocols. Update on Township Closings.

### **March 19, 2020 Update: Declaration of Emergency**

At its regularly-scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the Cheltenham Township Board of Commission ordinance officially declaring an emergency in response to the COVID-19 virus. The declaration will make the To for any disaster relief funding that may become available. As of this notice, 46 other communities in Montgomery C issued an emergency declaration.

In addition, during the declared emergency, the ordinance authorizes the conduct of public meetings by wa communications, the alteration of employee work schedules, and the ability waive requirements for competitive bidd

While Governor Wolf ordered the closure of all non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania to slow the spread of Virus, Cheltenham Township will remain in operation to the fullest extent possible while implementing measures support its employees and the public.

Cheltenham Township is committed to continuing to provide essential, life-sustaining services, such as Police, F Medical Service and Refuse Collection, among others to the community during this difficult time. Non-essential s will be provided in limited capacity for the duration of any restrictions. All public buildings are closed to the public.

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### **March 18, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting will be held via web conference**

#### **[March 18, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting Video](#)**

Following state and federal mandates to close businesses and limit social interaction to slow the spread of the Coron (COVID-19), Cheltenham Township will hold its March legislative meeting via web conference.

Residents will be able to participate via phone, smartphone, tablet or internet. A link will be distributed through the T Facebook page, website – both on the front page and with the meeting agenda link – and evening e-blast at 5:30 p.m.

The Township will be utilizing Zoom for this meeting. If you wish to participate via a smartphone, which has video c will need to download the app for ZOOM Cloud Meetings. If you utilize a computer, you may also be required to do program. Please allot additional time to install the software on your phone or computer.

For the safety of the public, Commissioners and staff, it is *strongly recommended* that members of the community pa meeting online or on the phone. The entirety of the Board of Commissioners will be participating online.

**Note:** This first meeting will be available to 100 participants. If you are unable to participate in the meeting live, it the meeting will be recorded and the recording will be posted on the Township website.

The ability to use web conferences is the result of the State relaxing Sunshine Law standards during this time of crisis allowing municipalities to continue operating while protecting their elected officials, employees and the public.

Please bear with us as we work through this technology that is new to us. We will be using this meeting to fine-tune how this technology can be utilized for future meetings if the current restrictions remain in place.

Cheltenham Township is committed to providing continuity of essential services throughout this unprecedented time and asks our community members for their patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

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### **March 16, 2020 Update: COVID-19 Testing Protocols**

**Many of you have asked our teams about getting tested for the virus. You cannot simply walk into a hospital; you will be turned away. Here is the protocol from the Montgomery County Departments of Health and Public Safety:**

- Call a doctor. Any doctor. You will need to be screened through some questions to determine your risk.
- If the doctor feels you need a test, the doctor will need to write a prescription.
- Where to find a test:
  - The answer is we are unsure exactly at this time (we will continue to pursue). Some labs like LabCorp accept the test, but not administer the test. The County is hoping to have more information on public testing within the next 1-2 days.
  - Some urgent care centers can do the test (and accept them) but you may be charged a regular co-pay.
  - Again, DO NOT go to a hospital ER for the test.
  - Please DO NOT call 9-1-1 and ask for a test... or ask to be transported to a hospital for a test. If you are then of course call 9-1-1 and you will be transported.

If you do NOT have health insurance, please call the Montgomery County Office of Public Health at 610-278-5117 and ask for a Disease Intervention Specialist.

This situation is very fluid and changing by the hour. We will continue to update you with additional information as it becomes available.

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### **March 13, 2020 Update on Cheltenham Township COVID-19 Response**

In response to Governor Wolf's declaration of mitigation actions in Montgomery County on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Cheltenham Township will be closing the Administration Building, Tax Office, Emergency Medical Services, and Public Works buildings to the public effective close of business on Friday, March 13, 2020 and will re-open when the buildings are available on Monday, March 30, 2020.

The La Mott and Rowland Community Centers and the Cheltenham Township Libraries (Cheltenham, Glenside and La Mott) remain closed until March 30, 2020, as well.

Throughout the restriction, the Township staff will continue to provide essential services such as: Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Trash Collection. All other non-essential services, such as Tax Collection, Permitting and Inspections, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Financial Services, will be in operation; however, contact with them will be by phone, fax, email, internet or mail. Below is a list of key points of contact in Cheltenham Township:

**Cheltenham Township**

8230 Old York Road | Elkins Park, PA 19027

Phone: (215) 887-1000 | Fax: (215) 887-1561

[www.cheltenhamtownship.org](http://www.cheltenhamtownship.org)

**Cheltenham Township Police Department**

8230 Old York Road | Elkins Park, PA 19027

Phone: (215) 885-1600

**Cheltenham Township Tax Office**

8230 Old York Road | Elkins Park, PA 19027

Phone: (215) 887-1000 | Fax: (215) 887-1561

**Cheltenham Township Public Works Department**

8101 Old York Road | Elkins Park, PA 19027

Phone: (215) 635-4600

If you have something you would like to drop off for one of the Township's departments, a drop off box available in front of the Administration Building from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Please note: Blu is by appointment only.

Township parks remain open for unorganized activity. Park facilities are closed to organized activities, such formal or informal. We ask that all occupants practice social distancing (stay six or more feet away from another person). Be aware that recreation equipment will not be cleaned. Visitors to Township parks assume all responsibility for their own safety and hazards.

The Waverly Road Compost Facility and Public Works Facilities will remain open on Saturdays. The Public Works Building will be closed for drop offs during the week.

The following organized events have been canceled:

- March 28, 2020 Easter Egg Hunt at Curtis Arboretum
- April 18, 2020 Princess Ball at Glenside Hall
- April 18, 2020 Flea Market at Curtis Arboretum
- April 18, 2020 Trail Fest on Tookany Creek Parkway
- April 24, 2020 Arbor Day Celebration at Carroll Brooke Park
- April 25, 2020 Downtown Glenside Arts Festival
- Earth Day Events at various locations in April

All public meetings through March 30, 2020, are canceled with the exception of the March 18, 2020 Commissioners meeting. The meeting will be held via tele- or web-conference. Details for public access to the meeting will be forthcoming.

If you have questions, contact the Township at (215) 887-1000 or email: [EMA@cheltenham-township.org](mailto:EMA@cheltenham-township.org).

**For the latest information on COVID-19, we suggest the following:**

**Montgomery County Resources:**

A public Inquiry Line for residents who have questions about Mont specific information can call 610-631-3000 between 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Montco's Ready Radio FM station is now available online: <https://rdo.to/MCDPS>. The messages are in English, Spani

Montgomery County COVID-19 Website

<https://data-montcopa.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-19>

**More Resources:**

Official Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Commonwealth of PA Health Department

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Montgomery County Office of Public Health

<https://www.montcopa.org/513/Public-Health>

Cheltenham Emergency Management Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/CheltenhamTownshipEmergencyManagement/>

Cheltenham Township

<https://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CheltenhamTownship/> (Facebook)

Cable Channel 42 (Comcast)

Cable Channel 1060 (Verizon)

**Past Updates:**

[March 12, 2020 Update](#)

[March 9, 2020 Update](#)

[March 8, 2020 Update](#)

[March 6, 2020 Update](#)

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