

## **Message from the Mayor May 29, 2020**

Good afternoon,

This has been a productive and positive week in Moonachie – and a notable one. We held our first virtual Memorial Day Ceremony, the Bergen County Mobile Testing Unit was at our ball fields, and today, all of the play equipment in town was sanitized.

The parks were sanitized with an environmentally safe, people safe, and CDC approved material for the eradication of the Coronavirus on hard surfaces. Hard surfaces include all benches, all the garbage cans and recycling cans, all basket ball equipment, picnic tables, the handball court, and the pavilion.

We still need to practice social distancing, wear a face mask, wash our hands frequently and stay at home when possible.

Our actions have made a difference and will continue to do so. Our positive test results as of yesterday are 68. Our numbers all week, for those who follow them, have been as high as 69 and as low as 67 this week. Numbers change as results are verified.

We are stronger together, and everything you do to protect yourself also protects others.

Have a safe and healthy weekend.

Mayor Vaccaro

## **Message from the Mayor May 22, 2020**

I want to wish everyone a safe and healthy Memorial Day weekend. It appears the weather will be nice for most of it and there is a general excitement that small outdoor gatherings are once more allowed.

I know that keeping your loved ones safe and healthy is going to be a top priority this weekend. Social distancing is still the best way to stop the spread, as well as frequent hand washing, and wearing masks around groups of people. That still leaves a lot of room for enjoyment.

This weekend is about honoring our veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in battle. The poppy which is the symbol of this holiday was the small flower that was the first to bloom on war torn fields in Europe after the war was over. It is a sign of survival.

We will solemnly pay tribute on Monday, May 25th at 10:30AM at Borough Hall. We will place the wreaths as we always have. Father Kevin from St. Margaret's will offer a prayer, and a representative from the EMS, Fire Department, and Police Department will do the honors. Former Mayor Dressel will attend representing all of the Armed Forces, and he will lay the Veteran's wreath. This event, since all of you cannot be there, will be lived streamed on the Borough's Facebook page, and on the Fire Department's Facebook page. We hope you join us.

There will also be a national moment of silence at 3pm to pay tribute.

Additionally, next Wednesday, at the Ball Fields on Redneck, the County will be sponsoring a mobile walkup coronavirus testing site from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. This is a walkup site. From 9AM until 10AM is reserved for First Responders. Id and insurance cards, if applicable, are required. This is a great opportunity for those who do not have the means to drive to Bergen County Community College or the New Bridge Medical Center.

I wish for you a happy and healthy holiday. I hope you join us in our digital celebration.

We will get through this together.

Mayor Vaccaro

**Mayor's Message May 9, 2020**

Good day. This weekend is Mother's Day. I want to wish the happiest Mother's Day to everyone. It is very hard not to all be together for this celebration of family, but families do what is best for each other. And right now, social distancing is helping to keep us safe.

There of some of us whose moms are not here, but our moms are in our hearts no matter how far apart we are. There are new moms, and new grandmothers, and other women who act as moms. Thanks to all of them.

We must continue to stay safe through wearing a mask in public, washing our hands, staying at home, and social distancing. The Moonachie family is a strong one, and we will get through this together.

Stay well,

Mayor Dennis Vaccaro

### **Message from the Mayor May 4, 2020**

Governor Murphy announced today that in-person instruction is cancelled through the end of the school year, but on-line instruction will continue. Also, today starts Teacher Appreciation week, as well as Nurse Appreciation week.

The Borough of Moonachie wants acknowledge the amazing staff of teachers, support personnel, and administrators that have worked so hard to make this school year as impactful as possible. The current situation has been challenging for everyone involved in the education of our youth, but our teachers have really risen to the challenge. We are so proud of all of you!

And Nurses Appreciation week could not go by without acknowledging the incredible job our nurses continue to do. Lives have been saved under unimaginable conditions, and under extreme pressure. We are also so proud of them.

And how can we thank these wonderful professionals? By staying home, staying safe, wearing a mask in public, washing our hands, and practicing social distancing.

As a community, we are grateful to everyone who continues to contribute to defeating the virus. We will get through this together.

Stay healthy!

Mayor Dennis Vaccaro

**Message from the Mayor April 28, 2020**

Tax Information

The grace period for the second quarter tax payment due May 1st' has been extended to June 1st.

Please mail your taxes in, by check or money order, to:

Borough of Moonachie Tax Department  
70 Moonachie Road  
Moonachie NJ 07074

Please include your tax stub for the second quarter, and write the property address on the memo section of the check. Any questions, please call 201-641-1813 ext. 302.

Remember - Stay Home and Save Lives. Wash your hands, wear a mask in public, and practice social distancing. Remember to keep those sickened by this pandemic in your prayers.

We will get through this together.

Mayor Dennis Vaccaro

### **Message from the Mayor April 27, 2020**

Tomorrow, between 12noon and 12:20 the Navy Blue Angels and the Air Force Flying Thunderbirds will be honoring all essential employees by flying over our area. Their flight is to celebrate the hard work and dedication of medical professionals, and First Responders. They will fly from the GW to the Lincoln Tunnel, fly over NYC and go north, and then turn to continue south along the Hudson River.

These planes are loud and very fast...and you can probably see them (and hear them) from your home. If you want to try to see them, stay on your property and social distance.

We are at 58 positive results for Moonachie as of this morning. This is the total number of infections since this episode began. Not all of those who tested positive are still sick; many have recovered. Our prayers and thoughts go to all who have been ill, and additional prayers are that the rest of us remain healthy.

We are starting to see a trend, albeit a small one, in the right direction. More tests are becoming available so we will be able to get a real handle on the extent of the infections. Once we, as a state, start beating this virus back, we will be able to start to plan to reopen. Our dedication to doing the right things is what has started the trend going in the right direction.

As always, stay safe, wash your hands, remain at home, and practice social distancing.

As a concerned Moonachie family, we will all get through this together.

Mayor Vaccaro

## **Message from the Mayor April 20, 2020**

Good evening,

I know that the quarantine is frustrating, and how much we all long to do the things we used to do without even thinking about it, but your fortitude and strength are what is influencing the curve to flatten out. As of last night, Moonachie had 48 cases.

Our continued effort to stay at home, wash our hands, wear a mask in public (which can be a scarf or bandana as well), and practice social distancing is what will allow us to successfully end the quarantine. We are keeping our health care workers on the front line safe by our efforts. We are keeping our loved ones safe by following the rules. It is not easy, but we are strong people. I applaud your good work and hope for your continued patience.

On a sad note, four and a half years ago Anna Semioli was hit by a vehicle and passed away this weekend. We offer prayers for peace for her family at this time.

We continue to pray for all of those who been affected by COVID-19.

As always, every 2 – 3 days we update you, and I look forward to the day that starts the stretch of good news. We continue to do this together, and we will get through this together.

Take care and stay healthy,

Mayor Dennis Vaccaro

## **Message from the Mayor April 16, 2020**

Many people have been contacting me and Borough Hall with questions related to questions they have regarding COVID. I have set up an email address where you can send your questions, concerns, comments, and suggestions. Not all of the issues can be resolved by the Borough, but hopefully we can find a place to direct you to if we cannot. The email address is [Moongov@moonachie.us](mailto:Moongov@moonachie.us).

The Covid case number in Moonachie is 42. Sometimes there are discrepancies in reporting that cause the numbers to change a little. We are committed to reporting as accurately as we can.

Today Governor Murphy announced that schools would be closed through May 15th, giving you an idea about the expected duration of the Stay at Home directive. The only way that you can individually help at this time is to follow the recommendations to keep you and others safe:

Wash your hands

Wear a mask when you go shopping

Practice social distancing

Stay at home.

Behind the scenes, all of Moonachie administration and services are working together to keep Moonachie operating efficiently. The RLC School teachers and staff under the leadership of Dr. Ponds, are providing education, and many dedicated employees provide food every school day for students. The first responders, Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, DPW, as well as Moonachie Seniors, and office staff are working hard to provide the best level of services possible. Moonachie has always pulled together in a crisis, and that is why I am so proud to be your Mayor..

Stay healthy,

Mayor Vaccaro

## **Mayor's Message April 13, 2020**

Good evening,

The county reported that there have been 44 who have tested positive in Moonachie since the beginning of the virus spread. However, signs are showing that the incidents of positives are starting to level off. The reason we are starting to see improvement is because of all of the work that you have done to follow the rules for social distancing.

We must all continue to do what is right. We must continue to wash our hands, practice social distancing, and stay at least 6 feet from other people. Remember you must cover your nose and mouth when you have to go to a store.

We are all in this together, and together we will succeed. We must remember to keep those who been infected close to our hearts, and to keep trying to do the best we can to stay healthy.

I am proud of Moonachie's efforts – the first responders who are there everyday, the employees who keep the business of the borough going, and the residents who are doing the best they can.

Mayor Vaccaro

## **Message from the Mayor April 10, 2020**

Good Day,

As we head into the weekend, I wanted to thank you, members of the Moonachie family, for embracing the guidelines that keep everyone safe. I know it is hard and that we will feel the loss of not being with our loved ones during this holiday season. But I also know that keeping our distances will stop the spread of the disease.

I hope you find peace in your heart, and remain healthy.

We need to keep the actions that keep people safe in mind:

- Practice social distancing
- Wash your hands
- Stay 6 feet apart

We remain strong, and there will be an end to this, hopefully soon.

Mayor Vaccaro

### **Message from the Mayor April 6, 2020**

As COVID-19 continues to ravage our country, we, too, the family of Moonachie, have experienced loss.

John Ruschke, long time resident and former Fire Chief passed away from COVID-19. The Moonachie Fire Department regrettably announced the passing of Former Chief John Ruschke. “John was a longtime member of the Department. He served as Chief of Department, Chief Engineer, and in other roles”. He will be missed not only by his family but by the community who benefits every day from his efforts.

Also lost to us as a result of this disease, is Aldo Bazzarelli, patriarch of the Bazzarelli family and Moonachie family member. Bazzarelli’s Restaurant is a Moonachie landmark; a location for many family celebrations. Aldo supported the community in many ways, and his passing is a great loss not only to his family but to the Moonachie community.

The best way to honor these special people and other individuals that we have lost from our community is to do whatever you can to stop the spread of this disease. We remain united in hope that this time in our lives will pass without greater loss. By social distancing, staying at home, and washing our hands we will be doing our part.

Mayor Vaccaro

**Mayor's Message April 3, 2020**

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that one of Moonachie's own has been claimed by this terrible virus.

There are no words to say, except that as the Moonachie family, we are with those who loved him in their sorrow.

This should only strengthen our resolve to get through this together, doing the things we know we should be doing: Practicing social distancing, washing our hands, staying at home.

We united in hope that this time in our lives will pass without greater loss.

Mayor Dennis Vaccaro

Out of respect for his family, we will publish the county report tomorrow.

## **Message from the Mayor April 1, 2020**

Good afternoon,

By now, most of you know that the state is expecting a very difficult two weeks as more available testing reveals higher numbers of positives.

However, there is good news. Bergen County is demonstrating that aggressive social distancing is actually working. ( [NJ.Com](http://NJ.Com)).

There are now 2 testing sites in Bergen County: The FEMA site at Bergen Community College (first come first served, proof of NJ resident, must display symptoms; open SUN, T, TH, F only) and the Bergen County Site.

The Bergen County drive thru testing site at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center is officially fully open. Criteria for testing are a Bergen County resident and symptomatic, symptomatic first responder, or symptomatic healthcare worker. Please visit <https://www.newbridgehealth.org/bergen-covid19-screening/> to be screened through the online portal or contact telehealth at 201-204-0712. You cannot just show up to this site and get tested. You must be screened by telehealth first.

The County publishes an update daily which you can see at Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco which is a Facebook page.

Remember:

When you stay at home, you save lives. When you wash your hands and practice social distancing, you protect yourself.

Prayers go out to all those affected by this virus and hope that all remain healthy. We will all get through this together.

Mayor Vaccaro

## **Message from the Mayor March 29, 2020**

Good evening

The latest updated number we have received from the County of positive cases in Moonachie is 10. We hope all 10 of our residents recover quickly.

The numbers change rapidly as more people get tested. Once the testing peaks, we will see a decline.

Staying at home is Safety at home. Only go out in public if you absolutely must.

So, remember:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water and keep your hands away from your face.
2. Practice social distancing – stay 6 feet away.
3. Don't leave home unless you absolutely have to. The less people you interact with, the lower your risk

Mayor Vaccaro

## **Message from the Mayor March 27, 2020**

Good evening

I regret to inform you that the number of positive cases as reported to us today is 6. Our prayers are with the infected and we continue to pray for good health for all. The Borough of Moonachie has been addressing COVID-19 issues daily. We made difficult decisions about social contact and have implemented every measure we could to keep our community safe.

We have tried to be current in the information that we pass along to you. Please note that numbers may vary due to varied reporting times from both the State and local municipalities; as well as pending case verifications and/or county attribution by NJDOH

Every day we listen to the Governor's press conference, and in the last two days there have been EOC conference calls, Senators Booker and Menendez conference calls, a County Board of Health Conference call, and a County conference call. There is so much information daily, and important in different ways for all of you, that you can go to the State website at [www.Covid19.nj.gov](http://www.Covid19.nj.gov) or the County website at [www.co.bergen.nj.us](http://www.co.bergen.nj.us) to find more information that is useful for you.

It is the weekend and we all want to see our loved ones and friends. Hopefully soon we will be able to.

So, remember:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water and keep your hands away from your face.
2. Practice social distancing – stay 6 feet away.
3. Don't leave home unless you absolutely have to. The less people you interact with, the lower your risk

We are strong together...and separated by at least 6 feet!

Mayor Vaccaro

### **A Message from Mayor Vaccaro March 26, 2020**

I regret to inform you that the Borough of Moonachie has been informed by the Bergen County Health Department that there are 3 additional residents who have tested positive for COVID-19. The County Health Department has begun the contact tracing investigation, and will inform those who have been in close contact.

We knew the numbers would go up once testing became more available. They will continue to increase. We must remain calm. As soon as I hear any information, I will pass it on to you.

The State, the County, as well as your town, are doing everything they can to make this situation better. You have to do your part. Please remember to adhere to the recommendations to stay healthy:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water and keep your hands away from your face.
2. Practice social distancing – stay 6 feet away.
3. Don't leave home unless you absolutely have to. The less people you interact with, the lower your risk.

Our prayers are with those infected, and we pray that all will stay healthy.

**From the Mayor: March 25, 2020**

As soon as the Borough receives notification from the County regarding cases of COVID19 in Moonachie, we post what we are allowed to post on Facebook and the Borough website. In recent days, I have been asked by many who (which we are not allowed to disclose because of Federal HIPA laws) and where (same reason) we have cases.

Rumors and panic only serve to make people more upset. I promise to let you know as soon as I know anything. Calm and following the rules will help us get through this together.

Please remember to practice social distancing, wash your hands properly, keep your hands away from your face, and to stay at home as much as possible...the less people you encounter the smaller your risk.

This is hard, but we have been through hard times and come back stronger. We are all in this together.

Thank you.

Mayor Vaccaro

**Moonachie Municipal Council Meeting Scheduled for 7pm March 26, 2020**

The fourth Thursday of the month is the regularly scheduled council meeting. Because of state imposed social distancing, the Borough is following the guidelines set forth by the State to have an electronic meeting. That means you can participate in the meeting through telephone. The call in number is 800-615-1516. The access code is 0707400. Dial the number, when prompted you will put in the access code, and then you will join the meeting. There will be a time when the public is allowed to speak. You cannot join the meeting before 7pm.

## **An Update from Mayor Vaccaro**

**MARCH 20, 2020**

Moonachie became stronger, and smarter, after Sandy. When the new Municipal Building was built, we made sure the structure was ready for any issue.

In light of the “practice social distancing” recommendations from the President, Governor, County Executive and me, I am using the technology built into our building to allow the office staff to work from home. Their work phones and all phone calls will seem as if the staff is at their desk. Emails will be answered and Borough work will continue.

I am sure all of you are being as safe as possible and following all health recommendations. Please stay at home unless it is absolutely necessary. Make “social distancing” a priority.

We have been working with the school to help in any way possible. They have been doing an outstanding job solving problems with technology and keeping the kids fed.

I want to thank the staff at Borough Hall, the Police Department, the Fire Department, EMS, DPW and RLC School for all working together for what is best for Moonachie.

As one family, we will get through this together as long as we are all strong together.

Remember to support our local businesses.

Stay healthy and if there are any questions please call me at 201-641-9117.

Mayor Vaccaro

Here is a note from the school:

March 20, 2020

At the Robert L. Craig School, distance learning has successfully completed our first week. Students, teachers, and families are engaged with each other each day through work packets and a variety of Virtual platforms. We have served over 1000 meals to-go this week to the students and families of Moonachie. Additionally, with the help of the South Bergen Rotary Club, we delivered an additional 160 Snack Packs for this weekend, and an additional 160 is planned for next weekend.