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April 21, 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ON

LIVINGSTON COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS

The Township is aware that a vast number of outlets, both governmental and media, regularly publish numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths attributable to Livingston, and that often the different sources present different numbers.

The Township is also aware that many residents, perhaps because of the sometimes conflicting numbers reported and the lack of details, are seeking more detailed information concerning the COVID-19 cases and deaths that have occurred in Livingston, including the locations and ages of the victims.

The Township fully appreciates the concerns of our residents and the desire for more detailed information and we want to be as transparent and open as possible. In that regard, the Township's Health Department is very involved in following up on all cases involving Livingston residents and maintains a local listing of cases and deaths, which are reported daily to Essex County, which in turn shares information with the State and other sources.

However, there are very strict legal limitations on what information the Township can and cannot share with the public, the most important being the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996" (**HIPAA**); which is a federal law that created of national standards to protect sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge.

Under HIPAA, the Township cannot legally disclose the names, addresses, dates of birth, underlying medical conditions or other sensitive health information of any identified COVID-19 case or death. However, after reviewing the legal restrictions and following guidance from the State of New Jersey, the Township has confirmed that we can release overall statistical information without identifying, or linking such information to, any specific individual.

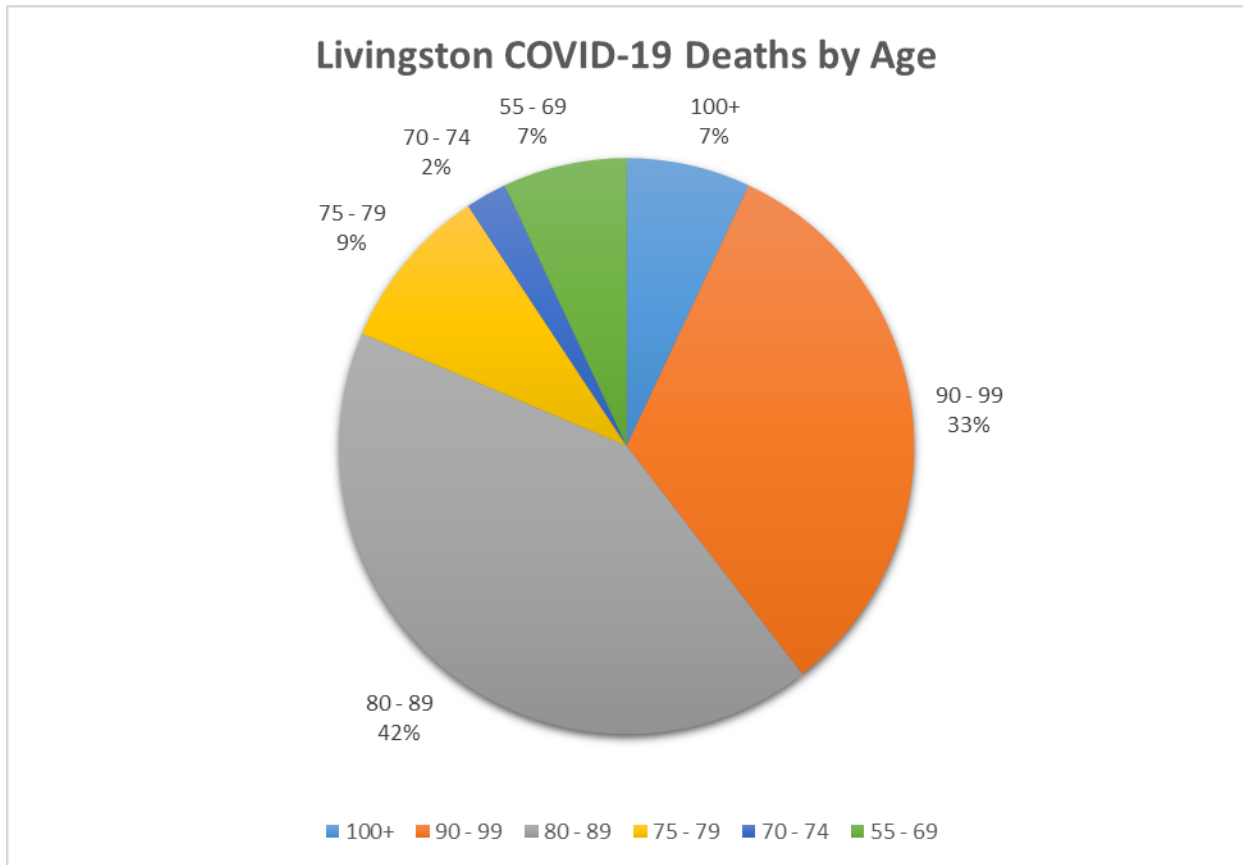
A number of the inquiries we have received relate to the total number of Livingston residents tested, including those who tested negative, and the total number of cases, including those who may not have been tested. However, the Township does not receive any information on negative test results, and there is no formal reporting system, at the local, county, state or national level, for testing and or reporting untested cases of asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic but untested and untreated individuals. Only with eventual antibody testing will we have a clearer idea of how many people actually were infected with the virus.

The only information that the Township receives relates to COVID-19 cases with confirmed test results, for which the Health Department then receives information on those confirmed cases and outcomes, i.e. death, in recovery or recovered. The information on those in recovery vs. recovered is fluid and incomplete, as there is a lag in reporting on recovering patients. Thus, the accurate information that the Township has principally relates to the total number of confirmed cases and the number of deceased.

To that end, we are able to present the following information as to the COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths in Livingston which is intended to be as responsive as we are legally permitted to be to the many of the questions that we have been asked. (Note that this information is based upon our local Health Department information as of April 20, 2020)

Total Confirmed COVID-19 Cases:	346
Confirmed Cases from Long Term Care Facilities (LTCs):	160
Total Number of Livingston COVID-19 Deaths:	44
Average Age of all COVID-19 Deceased:	85.80 years old
COVID-19 deceased from LTC Facilities:	35
Average Age of COVID-19 deceased from LTC facilities:	86.13 years old
COVID-19 deceased from private residences:	9
Average Age of COVID-19 deceased from private residences:	84.58

The chart below shows the breakdown of Livingston COVID-19 deaths by Age Bracket:



As reflected above, 7 % of the deceased were over 100 years old, 33% were between 90 and 99 years old, 42% were between 80 and 89 years old, and 9% were between 75 and 79 years old, meaning that 91% of the deceased were 75 years old and older. Only 4 of the deceased were under 75 years old and each of those was at least 55 years old and each had one or more underlying medical conditions.

As the medical experts have unanimously stated, the elderly and those with serious underlying medical conditions are the most at risk for serious complications, including death, from COVID-19 and Livingston’s experience is fully consistent with and, unfortunately, confirmative of those facts.

One of the most common questions we receive is why the number of deaths and mortality rate appears to be disproportionately high in Livingston. As reflected above, it is primarily due to the number of Long Term Care Facilities located in Livingston, which include nursing homes,

assisted living facilities, and acute care and rehabilitation facilities which almost exclusively house elderly persons, many with underlying medical conditions.

In closing, the collective thoughts and prayers of our community go out to all of those who have suffered the loss of a loved one or who have a loved one, or are themselves, suffering from this virus. In addressing this tragic pandemic, we are committed to doing everything we can to keep our residents informed as to how to respond and protect themselves from this pandemic and of the impact of COVID-19 on our community while staying within the legal limits on our ability to disclose this information.