



Watchung Office of Emergency Management – May 1, 2020

MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY BY ENSURING SOCIAL DISTANCING AROUND WATCHUNG LAKE AND BEST LAKE

At the April 29, 2020 Special Virtual Council Meeting regarding COVID 19 matters, the Watchung Borough Council recommended the closure of the parking lots at Watchung and Best lakes and all other Municipal parking lots near the lakes. In accordance with the recommendation of the Council, the Watchung OEM instituted the additional protective measures as recommended by the Council.

Please be advised that the Borough Lake Parking Lots and Mobus Field Playground, Pavilion and Parking Area are closed. The Parking lots have also been closed today at the Watchung Exempt Hall, Watchung Library, Watchung Texier House to ensure social distancing measures and to help ensure life safety measures. Parking on side streets is strongly discouraged.

The following recommendations and policies shall apply to all Watchung Parks pursuant to Governor Murphy's Executive Order 133 and Borough restrictions:

Governor Murphy's Executive Order 108, which is still in effect, contained an exception allowing municipalities and counties to, among other things, impose additional restrictions at municipal or county parks. However, the minimum requirements contained in EO 133, must be met. Specific provisions of EO 133 clarify and confirm this.

EO 133 and Borough restrictions are as follows:

The Borough advises all pedestrians to follow the Governor's Executive Order 133.

Consistent with Paragraph 3 of Executive Order No. 107 (2020), visitors must practice social distancing and stay six feet apart whenever practicable, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;

Pedestrians should wear cloth face coverings in all settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, except where doing so would inhibit that individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age.

No picnicking shall be allowed, including on picnic blankets in signed picnic areas, and no picnic blankets, chairs, coolers, and other such personal property shall be carried into any Watchung park.

No organized or contact activities or sports shall be allowed

Consistent with Paragraph 5 of Executive Order No. 107 (2020), gatherings of individuals, including in parks, are prohibited.

All visitors to the Watchung Lake and Best Lake areas are strongly encouraged to walk in a counterclockwise direction helping to ensure social distancing.

Thank you for your cooperation!