

*East End Supervisors and Mayors Association*  
116 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968  
Telephone (631) 283-6055 • Fax (631) 287-5708

December 23, 2020

*Supervisors:*

Jay Schneiderman, **Chair**  
Town of Southampton

Scott A. Russell  
Town of Southold

Peter Van Scoyoc  
Town of East Hampton

Yvette Aguiar  
Town of Riverhead

Gerry Siller  
Town of Shelter Island

*Mayors:*

Peter Sartorius, **Vice-Chair**  
Village of Quogue

Gerard Larsen, Mayor  
Village of East Hampton

George Hubbard  
Village of Greenport

Jeff Sander  
Village of North Haven

Donald Louchheim  
Village of Sagaponack

Kathleen Mulcahy  
Village of Sag Harbor

Jesse Warren  
Village of Southampton

Maria Z. Moore  
Village of Westhampton Beach

Gary A. Vegliante  
Village of West Hampton Dunes

Patrick Parcels  
Village of Dering Harbor

For Immediate Release

The East End Supervisors and Mayors Association (EESMA) and the East End Hospitals are joining together to ask residents on the North & South Forks to **Stay Home & Stay Safe** this year.

New York State contact tracing data shows that 70% New COVID-19 Case are coming from households and small gatherings. While numbers in the towns & villages that make up the East End continue to be lower than other parts of the County and State, recent increases are alarming public officials and health care managers.

“With the vaccine arriving and so much hope on the horizon, we would hate to see a large increase in cases when we are so close” said Jay Schneiderman, Southampton Town Supervisor and Chair of EESMA. “Locally we want to encourage people to just be with their immediate families this holiday season and save the parties for next year when life hopefully returns to normal.”

Households are encouraged to stay together, not invite additional non-immediate family members or friends over for meals or drinks during the holiday, and not to attend parties, especially indoors or with meals or drinks.

Peter Van Scoyoc, Supervisor of East Hampton Town, where cases have doubled in the past month from the 8 previous months combined, fears a continuation of spike of cases seen after Thanksgiving. “We all know how tough it is to be apart from friends and family at the holidays, but the sacrifices we make in the coming weeks can keep us safe and our hospitals at workable levels”.

Robert Ross, Vice President of Community and Government Relations, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital adds “We ask our community to support the Hospital and all our healthcare workers and our community by following the NY State Department of Health guidelines. Please stay home and celebrate with those who reside in your home. By doing so you are helping to protect yourself and others.”

Riverhead Town Supervisor Yvette Aguiar stresses the importance of handwashing, mask wearing and practicing social distancing “Everyone’s routines have been disturbed, and in an effort to minimize the spread of this virus, we need to follow these guidelines”. If you are having people beyond your immediate family members who live with you, think about entertaining outside, or at minimum opening windows for ventilation. And please no caroling or kissing at midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup>!

**Stay Home & Stay Safe** messages will be posted on the Village and Town web sites and social media channels, as well as the private social media of Town Supervisors and Village Mayors. “In an effort to get the word out to all our communities, we hope to flood our social media streams with simple reminders that a *Healthy Holiday is a Happy Holiday* this year” promised Kathleen Mulcahy, Mayor of Sag Harbor.