

# Andes Supervisor Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone

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March 13th, 2020

Dear Andes Residents

At this time the Andes Town Board is taking steps to ensure the safety and health of the residents of our community and its employees. Beginning Monday, March 16th, the Andes Town Hall will be closed for two weeks due to the on going COVID-19 concerns. This is merely a precaution to prevent community spread. The safety and well-being of this community are our primary concern. This situation will be reassessed on March 30th, to determine any plans moving forward.

Even though the offices will be closed we will continue to work from home. All water payments, dog licenses, transfer station sticker applications, handicap placard applications, and any other services needed from the Town Clerk's Office may be sent by mail or left in the drop box at the Town Hall. The Clerk will handle all requests and inquiries in a timely fashion. She may be reached at 845-676-4791 or [andestownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:andestownclerk@gmail.com)

To contact the Building Inspector please leave a message at 845-676-4707

To contact the Assessor's office you may leave a message at 845-676-3737 or email [andesassessor@gmail.com](mailto:andesassessor@gmail.com)

The Town will be following guidelines set forth by the Association of Towns as well as any directives issued by Governor Cuomo, the New York State Department of Health or Delaware County Public Health. Any further information or decisions made by the Town Board will be sent out via our email list, posted on the town's website, <http://www.townofandes.com> and on the Town Clerk's Facebook page.

According to [delawarecountypublichealth.com](http://delawarecountypublichealth.com), Delaware County currently has one confirmed, positive case of COVID-19. Delaware County Public Health is working to reduce the spread. Individuals that came in contact with the person, will be contacted as this is standard protocol for the Public Health department with any communicable disease. They recommend if anyone

has a fever, with cough or experiencing shortness of breath they should contact their health care provider to find out if they meet current criteria for testing.

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent this virus, these simple steps can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Early information shows that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. This includes:

- Older adults
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
  - Heart disease
  - Diabetes
  - Lung disease

If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or because you have a serious long-term health problem, it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease. To reduce people's risk of being exposed to COVID-19 these actions can slow the spread and reduce the impact of disease:

- Take everyday precautions
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
  - Clean your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
  - To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something.
  - Wash your hands after touching surfaces in public places.
  - Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
  - Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks & cell phones)

- Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID-19 may increase in crowded, closed-in settings with little air circulation if there are people in the crowd who are sick.
- Avoid all non-essential travel including plane trips, and especially avoid embarking on cruise ships.
- During a COVID-19 outbreak in your community, stay home as much as possible to further reduce your risk of being exposed. An outbreak is when a **large** number of people suddenly get sick.

For general questions about COVID-19, please call the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) 24/7 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>