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Morris Township deputy mayor seeks Morristown Medical Center response on coronavirus

Feb 28, 2020



JEFF GRAYZEL

MORRIS TWP. - Jeff Grayzel, deputy mayor of Morris Township and 25th District Senate Democratic candidate, sent a letter on Friday, Feb. 28 to Morristown Medical Center President Patricia O’Keefe requesting a community update on what preparations are being taken in the event of a local outbreak of coronavirus in Morris County.

In the letter, Grayzel asks for answers to the questions:

- How many coronavirus test kits are stored at the Morristown Medical Center?

- How many N95 masks are stored at the Morristown Medical Center?

- Have preparations been made for an isolation unit?

- Are there contamination suits to protect healthcare workers in the isolation unit?

James Furgeson, communications director of Atlantic Health System, owner of Morristown Medical Center and Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown, Overlook Medical Center in Summit, Newton Medical Center in Newton, Chilton Medical Center in Pequannock and Hackettstown Medical Center in Hackettstown, said the hospital group is sending all queries to federal and state organizations.

"We are currently deferring all questions regarding Coronavirus to the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Furgeson said Friday.

Grayzel seeks to get ahead of the curve.

"As with so many problems we face in New Jersey, being proactive is always better than being reactive," Grayzel said in a release. "The public needs to know what we are doing to ensure their safety if there is an outbreak of coronavirus in the community. As the regional medical center for Morris County, it is imperative that Morristown Medical Center is making preparations for a local outbreak."

World Health Organization officials said Friday they were increasing the risk assessment of the coronavirus, which has spread to at least 49 countries in a few weeks, to "very high" across the world, Grayzel noted.

Jeff Grayzel was mayor of Morris Township in 2019 and now serves as deputy mayor and Township Committee member. He is a candidate for the New Jersey State Senate in the 25th Legislative District.

Other Democrats running for the senate seat occupied by Anthony M. Bucco are Cliff Dawkins of Rockaway and Rupande Mehta of Denville.

