

March 16, 2020

Dear members and friends of the Village of Takoma Park,

This is a followup to our [email of March 13](#) outlining our response to the COVID-19 crisis. We're writing now with some updates, including information on some changes to our services.

VILLAGE RIDES

We are temporarily discontinuing rides to church and non-essential appointments in order to focus resources on coronavirus-related services. We will accept ride requests up to 3 days in advance (instead of the usual 7 days), though cannot guarantee our ability to fill requests with short lead times.

Village drivers will not be able to provide rides to anyone with symptoms present. If you have a cough or fever, call your doctor for advice.

We are asking all drivers to have hand sanitizer/household cleaner available and to wipe door handles before and after providing a ride. And we are asking riders to sit in the back seat, to minimize distance between driver and rider.

DELIVERIES/ ERRANDS

If you need groceries delivered to your home there are several stores that will do so. Giant, Safeway, Costco, Target and Aldi all deliver using an online shopping service, [Instacart.com](#). If you need help setting up an account or putting in a delivery request, and don't have a family member or friend who can do this, please contact the Village at 301-646-2109.

The Village will offer grocery runs and other shopping services to home-bound members without family members or friends able to help, and who are unable to place orders online. We will, as always, perform other errands as well. We will provide clear guidelines for the service, to ensure safe practices for everyone. If possible, we would like at least three days' notice.

[Doordash.com](#), [Grubhub.com](#), [ubereats.com](#), and [Postmates.com](#) are services that will deliver food from area restaurants. Although MD Gov. Hogan has ordered all restaurants closed as of March 16 at 5 pm, takeout and delivery is still an option. An update on Takoma Park restaurants offering delivery and pickup is at <https://mainstreettakoma.org/takoma-restaurant-options/>.

If you have a cough or fever, please have all delivery drivers call you and leave groceries, medication and other items outside your closed door for you to retrieve after the delivery driver has left.

TELEPHONE CHECK-INS

Do you live alone? Would you like a Village volunteer to check in with you by phone on a regular basis? If so, please call us at 301-646-2109.

EVENTS:

The April 10 outing to Glenstone is cancelled. Most likely other events will be cancelled as well. We will update our website's calendar as needed.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERS:

Everyone who receives services needs to be a Village of TP member. To enroll, go to villageoftakomapark.com or call the Village at 301-646-2109. Membership is \$25 a year, but will be waived when this is a hardship.

Village volunteers also need to join the Village, a requirement of the Village's insurance policy. During this critical period, **we will waive the membership fee** if requested **for those joining the Village in order to volunteer**. Call the Village at 301-646-2109 to sign up and let us know what you want to do to help.

STAYING INFORMED:

The situation is changing rapidly. In addition to the links we sent in our March 13 email, [here is a link](#) to some helpful advice and information from respected health experts. Also, note that The New York Times and Washington Post are offering free access to their coronavirus coverage. See nytimes.com/coronavirus and washingtonpost.com/coronavirus.

We hope you stay well during this stressful time.

Sincerely,

Andy Penn
Laurie Welch
Co-Presidents