



Union Fire Association of Lower Merion
Montgomery County | Station 28
149 Montgomery Ave.
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(610) 664-9112
WWW.STATION28.ORG

Contacts: Montgomery County DPS | Email: COVID19@montcopa.org
Montgomery County DPS | Hotline: (610) 631-3000 [8:00am-8:00pm]

For Immediate Release: March 22, 2020

Community Update: COVID-19

Bala Cynwyd, PA (March 22, 2020) – Due to the evolving COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak and following the guidance of the Governor's office and County Commissioners, we at the Union Fire Association of Lower Merion have made significant changes to daily operations. *Rest assured that community response remains our priority and fire services remain at full operational capacity.* Our dedicated volunteers and career staff remain steadfast in their commitment to their community in providing the residents of Bala Cynwyd, Merion, and Lower Merion Township with fire and emergency services.

With this in mind, keeping our career staff, volunteer members, and their families safe is equally important. In order to better address this outbreak, we have restricted access to the station to firefighters only; all doors will remain locked 24/7. In addition, we have enhanced our cleaning and decontamination procedures throughout the firehouse, all apparatus, and equipment.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE DIAL 9-1-1.

Over the years, we have been and continue to be extremely grateful to our community members who donate food and thank you letters to our personnel. In these trying times, we ask that you consider donating the food items to local food banks or shelters until further notice.

There will be no tours, community events, or hall rentals until further notice. For those with scheduled birthday parties or hall rentals in the near future, we apologize for the inconvenience. A representative will be reaching out to you ASAP. If you need more information about this policy change call us at (610) 664-9112 and leave a message for the respective committee chair.

In the event of an emergency, you may be asked to step outside of your residence and speak with a fire service officer and adhere to the states' social distancing policy. This is to limit contact and exposure for both the resident(s) and responder(s). Please, if you feel sick or someone in your home is sick or has been sick – **notify the dispatcher or first arriving emergency service personnel.** In the event of a confirmed false alarm or system malfunction, we will be limiting the number of fire service personnel who enter a structure unless otherwise required. *Life safety remains our top priority and this will not affect any of our life and property saving initiatives.*

The situation is fluid and ever changing. We are closely monitoring our local, state, and federal emergency management partners for the latest information. **The members of the Union Fire Association would like to thank the residents of Merion and Bala Cynwyd for your continued support.** We are all in this together; we are your neighbors, friends, family members, and residents just like you.

Below are links you may find helpful:

Montgomery County DPS Dashboard: <https://data-montcopa.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-19>

Center for Disease Control & Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

PA Governor's Office: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>

PA Department of Health:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>