



VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

Open Letter to Scarsdale Community *COVID-19 and Other Updates: January 08, 2021*

Dear Scarsdale community,

With optimism and hope for a better 2021, I wish each of you Happy New Year!

While our Nation has not entered the year gracefully, the shocking events in Washington D.C. this week may help us all to focus more sharply in 2021 on renewing personal commitments that support basic human dignity and undergird thriving communities. Individually and collectively, we must recognize the deleterious effects of fear, divisiveness, and anger on society and actively seek to diffuse their underlying causes.

Personally, I will strive to recognize and respect the needs and viewpoints of others, even when I disagree with them.

Additionally, I will make every effort to engage with compassion and empathy, even when I am confronted with anger and divisiveness.

Please join me by helping to make 2021 the best year it can be, a better time and place for youth, families, and communities.

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine

The State Of New York has established a [web-based portal](#) hosting the latest information about COVID-19 vaccination. There's an [overview](#), which includes background information and the sequencing of priority groups, as well as [a tool](#) you can use to determine if you are eligible to be vaccinated. The vaccination program is presently in Stage 1A, which primarily targets healthcare workers of various types in direct contact with patients. The next stage, 1B, will expand to include teachers, persons over 75, first responders, and others.

All residents are encouraged to become vaccinated once eligible.

Holiday Travel and COVID-19

If you have traveled for the holidays, please do not forget to comply with the [NYS Travel Advisory and Mandates](#).

Travelers from a [contiguous state](#) must only complete a [NYS Traveler Health Form](#). All other travelers, including college students, who were out-of-state for **more than 24 hours** must:

- Obtain, *prior to arrival in NY*, a COVID-19 test within three days of departure from the state they had been in for more than 24 hours.
- Quarantine for three days upon arrival in New York.
- On day four of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test.
- Traveler must complete a [NYS Traveler Health Form](#).

If both tests referenced above come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test. A 14-day quarantine and [NYS Traveler Health Form](#) are required if the traveler does not complete *all* mandatory actions.

For travelers who were out-of-state for **less than 24 hours**, excluding contiguous states:

- The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state, and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in New York State.
- The traveler must fill out the [NYS Traveler Health Form](#) upon entry into New York State, as well as take a COVID diagnostic test four days after their arrival in New York.

Persons failing to comply with the above-referenced mandates are subject to significant penalty. [Detailed Travel Guidance](#) is also available online.

Be Safe, Be Well



Please continue to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the NYS mandates and continue to follow these CDC and the NYS Department of Health guidelines:

- Wear a mask.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Practice social distancing (6 feet).
- Stay at home if you are not feeling well.

Undertaking these efforts, including encouraging children, teens, and young adults, will reduce the likelihood that more rigorous restrictions on businesses and our daily activities may need to be reinstated.

We've done a great job locally, so let's keep it up!

Next, I'll discuss an important fiscal matter: development of our annual municipal budget.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Process

One of the most important responsibilities borne by your Village Board of Trustees is to review and adopt the annual municipal budget. As elected officials and residents, we take the matter very seriously. As you may know, Village staff undertake substantial effort to present a proposed budget that is both fiscally conservative and responsive to community needs – a difficult balance to achieve in most years, but an exceptionally challenging task amidst a continuing pandemic.

Importantly, budget development is a public process and all residents are encouraged to participate. The effort is educational and can be rewarding, offering opportunity to gain insights into our community's financial health and influence funding priorities. Perhaps most importantly for some, it is also a way to understand necessary trade-offs and help determine the impact of such decisions on local property taxes and level of municipal services provided.

Because of the financial complexities associated with developing the FY 21-22 budget against a backdrop of broader economic uncertainties and sharply declining revenues in response to COVID-19 impacts, the budget process started a month early, with the Village Manager having requested proposed operating budgets in November 2020. All department heads were directed to be mindful of the revenue picture and present alternative cost reduction scenarios. The initial public meetings involving discussion of the proposed budget with the Village Board are coming up soon.

At this time, the meetings are still planned to be available by Zoom, assuming public health circumstances continue to dictate remote meetings. The notice and agenda for each budget meeting is available through the online [Agenda Center](#), also appearing on the [Calendar](#). Staff are committed to posting each meeting's materials online in advance, as soon as practical ahead of the meeting. Please also note that a consolidated summary of the [Budget Schedule](#) is available on the Village Treasurer's [Budget Webpage](#).

I look forward to robust community participation in development of the FY 21-22 Village Budget.

Stay safe and be well, Scarsdale.

Sincerely,



Marc Samwick
Mayor