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## TOWN OF KINGSTON

*Office of the Board of Selectmen*

*Town House*

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*Kingston, Massachusetts 02364*

[www.kingstonmass.org](http://www.kingstonmass.org)

*Board of Selectmen  
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*Town Administrator/  
Chief Procurement Officer  
Thomas J. Calter III*

Advisory #4

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon at 4:00 PM the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 3 confirmed cases, announced yesterday evening. As the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 increases in Plymouth County, we ask that you continue to monitor the Town's website, [www.kingstonmass.org](http://www.kingstonmass.org), for updates from Kingston's Emergency Management Team, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all are linked below and on the Town's website.

[CDC.GOV](http://CDC.GOV) – CORONAVIRUS UPDATES  
[MASS.GOV](http://MASS.GOV) – CORONAVIRUS UPDATES  
[KINGSTON BOARD OF HEALTH](http://KINGSTONBOARDOFHEALTH)

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Paula Rossi-Clapp reported that by the end of the week the last of the 3,300 letters to Kingston's seniors will be mailed. These letters will inform seniors of who to contact with questions and concerns related to COVID-19, as well as help those who may require additional services or support during this time of uncertainty. Chief Douglass and Chief Splaine reported back to the group regarding their 9:00 AM meeting with the Superintendent of SLRSD to provide guidance on the district's "grab and go" lunch program for students who qualify for free and reduced meals. Beginning on Friday, March 20, 2020, "grab and go" lunches will be available for eligible families who have completed the survey provided by SLRSD, or have called into the Food Services Director. If you qualify but did not complete the survey and would like a lunch for your child, please call Megan Ahrenholz at 781-582-3556.

Early this morning Kingston's Town Administrator, Thomas Calter, met with Department Heads to discuss the challenges that COVID-19 poses to ongoing operations in the Town of Kingston and to communicate a plan that will allow operations to continue in the event that the Town House has to be closed entirely. Department heads and staff have been asked to forward their office voicemails to their cell phones and assemble "go boxes" that can be brought home and allow them to continue to work remotely. We've purchased additional licenses for software programs that will allow staff to log-in remotely. Our priority is to serve and support Kingston residents, employees and businesses through the continuity of basic services and operations.

Arthur Boyle, Kingston's Health Agent, visited the Kingston Collection this afternoon and spoke with staff regarding the Governor Baker's orders that impact their daily operations. Arthur reported back that all businesses at this time are in compliance. All restaurants in Kingston are currently operating as take-out and delivery only, and several day care centers have been given close orders, effective Thursday; however they may remain open to care for the children of Kingston's first responders only.

As mentioned in yesterday's announcement, to ensure the safety of residents and Town employees, the Kingston Town House will be fully staffed but closed to the public until further notice. There is a drop-off box with a mail slot located to the right of the entry door at the Town House. This is typically used for payments and will now be utilized for any materials that you wish to deliver. Please label your documents with the intended department and we will make sure the appropriate person receives the information. If you have any questions, please call or email the appropriate department, board, or committee. Contact information can be found on the Town's website, [www.kingstonmass.org](http://www.kingstonmass.org). Staff will be available via phone and email.

Additional information regarding building closures is as follows:

Kingston Council on Aging – Group programs are cancelled until further notice. The office will be staffed for outreach services, answer phones, and support transportation requests.

Kingston's Fire Department – Kingston's fire stations are closed to public access, unless you have a medical or other emergency. If you have any business to conduct, please call 781-585-0532. As always, in the event of a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.

Kingston Public Library – The Library is closed to the public until further notice. A list of their online services and offerings can be found at [www.kingstonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.kingstonpubliclibrary.org).

The Adams Center – The Adams center is closed to the public until further notice. All programs are suspended until future notice.

Recreation – Gray's Beach Park, the Reed Community Center and surrounding outside properties, and the Opachinski Athletic Complex are closed to the public until further notice, and programming at the Faunce School is suspended until further notice.

Schools – All schools are currently closed until Monday, April 6, 2020. Per the request of the SLRSD towns, all playgrounds and athletic fields are closed due to social distancing and surface area contamination concerns until further notice. This includes playgrounds on all school campuses.

If you or someone you know requires additional support in the coming weeks, please do not hesitate to call the appropriate contact person below:

Elderly Services & Residents with Disabilities: Paula Rossi-Clapp, Director of Elder Affairs / 781-585-0511

EMS: Mark Douglass, Fire Chief and Adam Hatch, Deputy Fire Chief / 781-585-0532

General Information: Thomas Calter / 508-717-1483

Board of Health: Arthur Boyle / 781-585-0503

**For All Medical Emergencies Call 9-1-1**

We will be checking voicemails regularly and will work diligently to direct residents to the appropriate resources as quickly as possible. The daily operations within the Town of Kingston are still up and running.

Additional support is offered by Massachusetts 2-1-1, a resource that provides real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals to residents. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Residents with questions can dial 2-1-1 from any landline or cellphone. Massachusetts 2-1-1 also offers a live chat option online at [www.mass211.org](http://www.mass211.org).

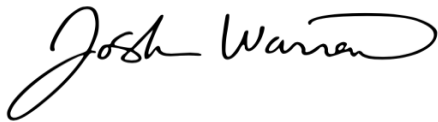
Residents who may be hospitalized for prolonged periods of time and have no other means to care for their pets (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) should contact Kingston's Animal Control Officer, Jo Boudreau, at 781-585-0529 ext. 6231, to discuss accommodations. Space is limited at Kingston's Animal Shelter, but we will do everything we can to accommodate.

Efforts to respond to and contain COVID-19 are rapidly changing, but our priority is to serve and support Kingston residents, employees, and businesses through the continuity of basic services and operations. We acknowledge that COVID-19 will significantly impact the lives of all those in our community, but we ask that you take a thoughtful and measured approach to keeping yourselves, your families, and your neighbors safe by following the news and recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, both on the Kingston Board of Health website.

Last but certainly not least, all of the staff here in Kingston deserve to be recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty over the last several days. Many have brought work home with them and others came in over the weekend. As the threats and challenges posed by COVID-19 increase, so have the staff's efforts to respond. Thank you all for the tremendous effort.

We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Warren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen