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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

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

Advisory #5

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County since yesterday's report of 5 confirmed cases. We ask that you continue to monitor www.kingstonmass.org for news from Kingston's Emergency Management Team. We have provided links to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the Town's website.

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the ongoing spread of the virus, all home inspections conducted by the Kingston Fire Department have been temporarily put on hold. Over the last 48-hours we have heard from a number of residents who were in the process of buying and selling homes in Kingston, and were unable to close as a result of this order. Fire Chief Mark Douglass and Deputy Fire Chief Adam Hatch reported to the group that they have developed a temporary system that will allow for the department to conduct virtual inspections of homes, that will satisfy their requirements. The department will be communicating the temporary process to applicants who have contacted them. We hope to begin virtual inspections in the coming days.

Updates from the Board of Health were provided by Arthur Boyle, Kingston's Health Agent. By order of the Board of Health, all Kingston businesses that involve physical contact with customers, not allowing for the recommended 6' social distancing guidelines, have been ordered to close effective Friday, March 20, 2020 at 12:00 PM. This includes hair salons, nail salons, massage and facial care parlors. Additional close orders have been issued to gyms, health clubs, workout facilities, tanning and spraying facilities, as clients in these facilities are often sweating and breathing heavily. Such activities promote contamination from bodily fluids and are difficult to properly sanitize between customers. With written permission from the Kingston Board of Health, these businesses may reopen on March 30, 2020. At that time, it may also be determined that the order to close will be extended beyond March 30th. This order does not apply to medical facilities, doctors' offices, or doctor prescribed physical therapy services.

As a point of clarification from yesterday's update, "Advisory #4," child care centers have been given close orders, effective Thursday; however, they may remain open to care for the children of Kingston's first responders, medical care workers, and others who are working on the "front lines" of this pandemic.

This afternoon I was joined on PACTV by State Rep. Kathy LaNatra, Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen and President of the Friends of the Kingston Council on Aging, Elaine Fiore, and Director of Elder Affairs,

Paula Rossi-Clapp for a COVID-19 update. We discussed Kingston's response to the ongoing pandemic and what services are available to residents. The update will be airing on Kingston's government channels (Comcast 15 and Verizon 42) and online at www.pactv.org.

Beginning on Friday, March 20, 2020, "grab and go" lunches will be available for Silver Lake Regional School District families who are eligible to receive free or reduced meals and 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.

Pursuant to the new public meeting protocols during Massachusetts's COVID-19 State of Emergency, we will be employing temporary procedures for public hearings to allow for public participation. Additional information will be made available to the respective boards and committees in the coming days. Moving forward, information that will allow for public participation will be included in the legal postings and meeting agendas.

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. 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.

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

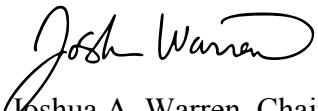
For All Medical Emergencies Call 9-1-1

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.

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.

We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua A. Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen