



Tel: 781-585-0500  
Fax: 781-585-0534

# TOWN OF KINGSTON

*Office of the Board of Selectmen*

*Town House*

*26 Evergreen Street*

*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 #7

Friday, March 20, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 5 confirmed cases yesterday. We ask that you continue to monitor [www.kingstonmass.org](http://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.

**At this time, Kingston's Public Safety Officers have not been made aware of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Kingston.**

Over a week ago the Town of Kingston changed its policy to allow employees to treat their earned sick days as paid time off (PTO) for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Any employees who are uncomfortable or concerned to report to work are encouraged to use their accrued sick time or vacation time. Kingston's Facilities Manager, Brad Norman, and his team, have been working diligently to clean and disinfect all of Kingston's buildings that are still in use, twice per day. Staff members have been provided a disinfectant spray bottle to clean their work areas as necessary throughout the day. Medical grade gloves are available to those staff members who wish to use them. Everyday, in the Town buildings that see the greatest amount of foot traffic from staff, light switches, thermostats, flat surfaces in meeting rooms, and all other common touch points are sprayed with Lysol IC, a hospital-grade disinfectant.

The Transfer Station will be open during regular hours. However, in the interest of limiting risks of transmission of the Coronavirus, the use of the Transfer Station is strictly limited to the drop off of waste as necessary; and no other activities of any kind shall be permitted until such time as the public health emergency has subsided.

The Town of Kingston has been approached by the American Red Cross who requested support in their response to the ongoing spread of COVID-19. Kingston's Emergency Management Team is in ongoing conversations with the American Red Cross and has offered resources and facilities to their blood drive and food preparations efforts. Our hope is to make our community a regional hub for their COVID-19 response effort.

Kingston's Emergency Management Team and Board of Health would like to share the following guidance from the CDC:

- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as a cough or difficulty breathing, **call your healthcare provider for medical advice.**
- If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face. This list is not all inclusive. **Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.**

- If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 (older adults, and those with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease) **contact your healthcare provider early, even if your illness is mild.**

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Douglass asked that I take this opportunity to provide information on a few frequently used terms that residents may be hearing these days:

- Social Distancing – Social distancing is deliberately increasing the physical space between people to help avoid the spread of illness. Staying at least six feet away from other people lessens your chances of catching COVID-19.
- Isolation – Isolation is a health care term that means keeping people who have been infected with a contagious illness away from those who are not infected.
- Quarantine – Limiting people who may have been exposed to the virus from interacting with the general population.
- Flattening the Curve – Flattening the curve refers to using protective practices to stagger the number of COVID-19 cases over a longer period of time so that EMS services, hospitals, and doctors have the staff, supplies and space to care for all the patients in who are in need.

In an effort to reach all residents, and collaboration with 95.5 WATD, the Emergency Management Team has begun to air public service announcements on the radio. Today WATD aired an interview with Mike Slawson, Library Tech at the Kingston Public Library, regarding the services available to residents during the Library's forced closure during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are appreciative of WATD's effort to support our ongoing communication efforts with residents.

As announced in yesterday's "Advisory 6," the Kingston Fire Department has started a Facebook page to enhance communications with residents. If you would like to follow the Kingston Fire Department on Facebook, please "Like" Kingston Fire & Emergency Management. Today, the Kingston Police Department also started a Facebook page. Please "Like" Kingston Massachusetts Police Department on Facebook for news and updates from the department. The Department has posted on their Facebook page regarding regarding delays and challenges that COVID-19 has posed regarding firearm licensing. Please visit their page for more details.

The Town of Kingston offers residents the use of our Blackboard Connect service, our town-resident notification system. This service allows leaders to send voice messages to residents and business within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community matters. The Connect service is used to supplement our current communication plans and augment public safety and first responder services. If you are not currently signed up to receive Blackboard Connect updates, please visit: [www.kingstonmawebportal.bbcportal.com/](http://www.kingstonmawebportal.bbcportal.com/).

Information regarding closures in the Town of Kingston is as follows:

Kingston Town House – The Town House is closed to the public until further notices. If you need to drop off any documents for a department, please contact them for drop-off box instructions. 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.

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.

The Boneyard Dog Park – The Boneyard Dog Park is closed to the public 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,



Joshua A. Warren, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen