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# 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*  
*Joshua Warren, Chairman*  
*Elaine A. Fiore, Vice Chairman*  
*Sandra D. MacFarlane, Clerk*  
*Tammy Murray*  
*Jessica Kramer*

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

Advisory #8

Saturday, March 21, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 20 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 11 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 and Health Agent have not been made aware of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Kingston.**

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have heard from all corners of the community from residents offering their time and resources to support Kingston residents who are in need. At this point in time, we're confident that we can safely and responsibly direct those intentions to the individuals below:

- The Kingston Fire Department currently has supplies of personal protective gear (PPE) for their staff, however they are forecasting a need for additional PPE in the weeks to come. If you have unused PPE such as (Tyvek suits or similar, N95 respirator masks, and medical grade hospital gloves) that may be of use to Kingston's first responders, please contact Mark Douglass or Adam Hatch at 781-585-0532. If your items meet the standards of Kingston's Fire and EMS workers, they will gladly accept them.
- The Restoration Community Church (RCC) in Kingston has a Board of Health certified food pantry that serves 15 community members 3-4 meals per week. Due to the closure of other area pantries, there is additional pressure on the RCC from those who typically receive food elsewhere. Their shelves are beginning to run dry. If you would like to make a donation of non-perishable food items, please contact Pastor Eric Greer at 781-361-9108.

The Kingston Fire Department would like to remind all residents to practice basic fire safety during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They ask that you refrain from wearing surgical gowns or suits, masks or rubber gloves near an open flame or while cooking. These items can be extremely flammable.

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.

Kingston Carvalho, Kingston's Harbormaster, would like the boating community to know that the March mailings for mooring permits will be postponed until the end of April. Also, the March 28, 2020 work party has been cancelled. Please refer to their page on the Town website for updates.

With essential Town business meetings still on the calendar for this coming week, I wanted to once again share the Town's temporary procedures for public meetings. Effective March 15, 2020, the Town of Kingston will be implementing temporary protocols enacted by Governor Baker, as they pertain to public meetings. All public meetings shall be postponed, at the discretion of the Chair(s) of the appropriate Board or Committee, unless there is a critical, time-sensitive action that must be taken, or a pending statutory deadline approaching that could lead to adverse consequences to the public interest. Please reference the full PRESS RELEASE titled Public Meetings – Temporary Protocols During COVID-19 State of Emergency, attached. We will be employing temporary procedures for public hearings to allow for public participation. Moving forward, information that will allow for telephonic public participation will be included in legal postings and meeting agendas.

Yesterday afternoon the Silver Lake Regional School District launched its "grab and go" lunch program for families that are eligible to receive free or reduced meals. If you are eligible have not enrolled in the SLRSD's "grab and go" program, please contact Megan Ahrenholz at 781-582-3556. She can help you enroll and provide you with additional information on the program.

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 continuing 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.**

In an effort to reach all residents, and collaboration with 95.5 WATD and PACTV, the Emergency Management Team has begun to air public service announcements on the radio and will continue to televise COVID-19 updates on TV and [www.pactv.org](http://www.pactv.org). We are appreciative of WATD and PACTV's effort to support our ongoing communication efforts with residents.

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

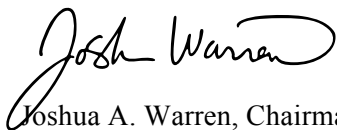
**For All Medical Emergencies Call 9-1-1**

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.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy weekend.

Sincerely,



Joshua A. Warren, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen



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## PRESS RELEASE

SUNDAY, March 15, 2020

Public Meetings – Temporary Protocols During Massachusetts’s COVID-19 State of Emergency Effective Immediately.

All public meetings shall be postponed, at the discretion of the Chair(s) of the appropriate Board or Committee, unless there is a critical, time-sensitive action that must be taken, or a pending statutory deadline approaching that could lead to adverse consequences to the public interest.

Kingston requests that all applications and petitioners agree to an extension and/or waiver of statutory deadlines during Massachusetts’s COVID-19 State of Emergency to allow for additional flexibility in conducting public business.

If a public meeting is deemed critical by the Chair(s) of the appropriate Board or Committee, the agendas shall be limited to only those items that are time-sensitive or required by statute. All other business should be postponed until further notice. Should a meeting be necessary, it shall be scheduled in Room 200 and all necessary participants will be required to spread out and maintain social distancing of six (6) feet between all other attendees. Any applicants that are waiting for a specific agenda item shall be instructed to spread out and wait in other parts of the building – lobbies, hallways, etc. until their agenda item is before the public body. All necessary meetings will be closed to the public but will be available for viewing on PACTV whenever possible.

All documentation and/or information required for a critical or time sensitive public hearing should be submitted electronically. Paper copies should not be distributed to Board Members or the public at meetings to protect the members from potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

When possible, only the chair or vice-chair and up to two staff person(s) should attend in-person. All other members are encouraged to access the meeting(s) telephonically. To the extent possible, all attempts will be made to record and broadcast public meetings via PACTV and/or online streaming platforms.

Additional instructions and information will be released as it becomes available on [www.kingstonmass.org](http://www.kingstonmass.org). Technology resources and Room availability will be allocated based on the urgency of the business pending before the public bodies in collaboration with the appropriate Boards and Committees. All attempts will be made to accommodate virtual meeting requests, but are not guaranteed.

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen