



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

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

Advisory #9

Sunday, March 22, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 25 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 20 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.

This afternoon a message was issued to the Kingston Intermediate School community from the school nurse. A service provider who was in the school during the week of March 9, 2020, has had a family member test positive for COVID-19. To date, the individual who was in the building is not showing any symptoms. All students and staff who might have been in contact with this person have been notified directly.

**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. Chief Douglass reported to the group that the Department has acquired an industrial grade disinfectant fogger. This will be used to disinfect the ambulances and fire apparatus as well as the Fire Station on a daily basis. This resource will also be made available to the Kingston Police Department for use in their cruisers and Police station. Use of the fogger will be extended to the Council on Aging and other Town buildings on an as needed basis.

As shared in yesterday's update, 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.

We are please to report that offers to support the Restoration Community Church's food pantry have already come in.

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 Town currently has a plan in place for supporting our vulnerable seniors who have self-identified as having special needs or requirements during states of emergency. This past week 3,300 letters were mailed to all of Kingston's senior residents. As a result of those letters, over 30 residents have registered with the Council on Aging, and we anticipate that this number will increase in the coming days.

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.

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.**

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.

Additional information regarding closures in the Town of Kingston can be found on the Town of Kingston’s homepage at [www.kingstonmass.org](http://www.kingstonmass.org).

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

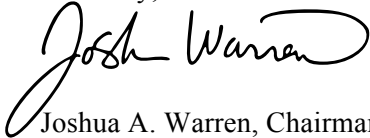
Board of Health: Arthur Boyle / 781-585-0503

**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.

Sincerely,



Joshua A. Warren, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen