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TOWN OF KINGSTON

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*Town Administrator/
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Thomas J. Calter III

Advisory #10

Monday, March 23, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 32 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 25 confirmed cases yesterday. 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.

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 discussed new guidance from Commonwealth regarding the Governor Baker's Emergency Order requiring all non-essential businesses in the state to operate remotely, closing their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public, as well as Baker's direction to the state's Department of Public Health to issue a stay-at-home advisory to the residents of Massachusetts. The Emergency Order and stay-at-home advisory both go into effect tomorrow, Tuesday, March 24th at noon, and will remain in effect until Tuesday, April 7th at noon.

Our Management Team is working with the Board of Selectmen on an operational plan to continue providing the necessary services to residents. I will include the approved plan in tomorrow's update.

We fully understand the multitude of inconveniences and challenges posed by this advisory, but we are asking that everyone who is deemed non-essential personnel, by your employer, to do the right thing and stay at home. Restricting our movement to essential activities, such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions and traveling to medical appointments, will improve our chances for a swift recovery from this pandemic. We understand the challenges posed by having children out of school and in the house all day. We understand that departing from our daily routines is difficult. We have discussed at great lengths, the hardships that this new guidance may cause, but if we all do our part and stay-at-home, our children will return to school sooner, we'll all return to work sooner, and normalcy will return to Kingston sooner. These drastic measures are designed to give our public health experts, our first responders, and our state and federal government the time to build up their capacity to expand their stock of personal protective equipment, expand testing capabilities, improve tracking, tracing and isolation measures, and create capacity within our hospitals and health care system to effectively push back the virus.

Countless residents have reached out over the last week by phone, by email, and on social media, looking for ways to help their neighbors. In this time of great need, staying home and drastically limiting your social interactions with others, will help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and possibly save lives. I cannot think of a greater way to be of service to one's neighbor.

The Governor's list of essential businesses has been posted online, and is available at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-essential-services/download>

Sincerely,

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen