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TOWN OF KINGSTON

Office of the Board of Selectmen

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Advisory #12

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

Earlier today the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 101 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 64 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.

Yesterday afternoon the Town of Kingston was informed of its first positive case of COVID-19. Kingston's Health Agent and Public Safety Officers will continue to monitor the case. Due to privacy requirements, the demographics of this case will remain anonymous. At this time, this is the only confirmed case of COVID-19 in Kingston.

This is a crucial time for infection control. Kingston's Emergency Management Team and Board of Health would like to remind you all that maintaining social distancing, limiting exposure to others, avoiding crowded places, and vigilant hand washing are vital steps in slowing the spread of this disease.

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the call we discussed again that due to the increased availability of testing and community spread of COVID-19, we expect to see a steady rise in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. Kingston Police and Fire continue to prepare for increased demands on their departments. Discussions continue with surrounding communities as well as the Massachusetts State Police, should there be a need to request mutual aid.

Director of Elder Affairs, Paula Rossi-Clapp, reported to the group that earlier today, in addition to 22 meals delivered through the Meals-on-Wheels program, 62 lunches were delivered to Kingston seniors. Each lunch, a quiche with bread pudding for dessert, was generously donated by Kingston resident, Nikki Digiusto, owner of Little Carmen's Restaurant in Norwell. Next week, Little Carmen's will be donating BLT wraps with homemade potato chips.

In a continued effort to communicate with residents through different platforms, Kingston conducted its second COVID-19 Update on PACTV yesterday morning. Yesterday's update is available on PACTV's website, and has also been linked on the Town's website. On Friday, March 27th, at 10:30 AM, Kingston will conduct its third COVID-19 Update on PACTV. This will air LIVE on Kingston's government channels (Comcast 15 and Verizon 42) as well as online at www.pactv.org.

In collaboration with the Town Clerk's Office, updates have been made to the COVID-19 section on the Town's website. Recognizing that events like this create a wide variety of challenges and struggles for residents, we provided a link to resources for reducing stress and healthy coping, combating isolation and loneliness, activities for children, mental health crisis support, and more.

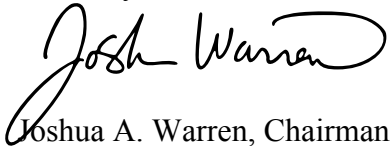
Governor Baker announced today that all public schools in Massachusetts will be closed until at least May 4th. Please monitor the Silver Lake Regional School District's website www.slrsd.org for updates regarding school closures, and other school business.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts launched a messaging tool called "AlertsMA." This will allow residents to subscribe to real-time notifications by texting the keyword COVIDMA to 888-777. Enrolling in the program will allow state and public health officials to send short messages and links to information, directly to your cellphone or other mobile devices. Information about the program can be found on the Town's website.

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 "Josh Warren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen