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# TOWN OF KINGSTON

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[www.kingstonmass.org](http://www.kingstonmass.org)

*Board of Selectmen*

*Joshua Warren, Chairman*

*Elaine A. Fiore, Vice Chairman*

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*Town Administrator/*

*Chief Procurement Officer*

*Thomas J. Calter III*

Advisory #13

Thursday, March 26, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 138 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 101 confirmed cases yesterday.

The Town of Kingston was also informed of its second and third positive cases of COVID-19. Kingston's Health Agent and Public Safety Officers will continue to monitor the case. Due to privacy requirements, the demographics of these cases will remain anonymous.

Many have inquired as to what information can be shared regarding the individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and those suspected of exposure to the virus. Pursuant to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services advisory on HIPAA privacy and COVID-19, Kingston will not be sharing any personal information to members of the public or the media. All of our residents are still protected by HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. These rules ensure the security of patients' protected health information (PHI) and require reasonable safeguards to be followed to protect PHI against impermissible uses and disclosures. Kingston will not be disclosing the whereabouts, home address, or names of individuals with COVID-19.

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.

With confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kingston and Plymouth County on the rise, Kingston's Emergency Management Team and Board of Health would like to again remind you that this is a crucial time for infection control. 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. A considerable amount of time was spent discussing the increase of confirmed positive cases in Kingston and Plymouth County. With the increased availability of testing and community spread of COVID-19, first responders are preparing for an increased demand on their services. Similarly, with Governor Baker's recent announcement extending school closures by one month, the Emergency Management Team recognizes that this pandemic may go on for longer than the Commonwealth initially anticipated. As such, the Council on Aging is bracing for an increased demand on their department for an extended period of time. Fortunately we will be able to reassign Town employees as needed.

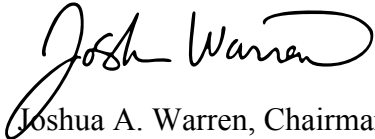
Chief Splaine reported that the Kingston Police Department and their cruisers had been “fogged” by the Fire Department’s new industrial grade disinfectant fogger on Tuesday night. The fogger will be used this evening to disinfect the Council on Aging.

In a continued effort to communicate with residents through different platforms, Kingston conducted it’s second COVID-19 Update on PACTV Tuesday morning. Tuesday’s update is available on PACTV’s website, and has also been linked on the Town’s website. Tomorrow, Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.pactv.org). The Mike Slawson, of the Kingston Public Library, Fire Chief Mark Douglass, and Director of Elder Affairs, Paula Rossi-Clapp, will be on to discuss their department’s ongoing efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen