

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

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 #31

Monday, April 13, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 2,141 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase of 117 confirmed cases from yesterday's count of 2,024. **Earlier today the Town of Kingston was informed of 8 additional confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, bringing the Town's total to 18 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19.** Kingston's Health Agent and Public Safety Officers will continue to monitor these local cases. Due to privacy requirements, the demographics of these cases will remain anonymous.

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of the discussion was related to the increase in reported cases of COVID-19 in Kingston. Of the Town's total number of confirmed positive cases, 13 are from one facility. Kingston's Board of Health and Emergency Management Team are in communication with management at the facility to assist them with their efforts to contain the situation and provide them the resources they may need. Kingston's Emergency Management Team is in constant contact with the Baker-Polito Administration, who have made available to the facility the full resources of the State to assist in mitigation efforts.

Fire Chief Mark Douglass confirmed that personal protective gear (PPE) from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was delivered over the weekend. Fire Chief Douglass will continue to send weekly request to MEMA to replenish supplies of PPE for Kingston's first responders.

A new section has been added to the COVID-19 page of the Town's website that provides links to relief funds that have been created to support residents and businesses adversely impacted by the ongoing pandemic. These resources include financial assistance for military families and families of fallen service members, resources for those facing challenges with food security, assistance for small businesses, and more.

Nearly one month ago we began shutting down municipal buildings, parks, and playgrounds to the public. We did so with the hope that by decreasing the opportunity for this virus to be transmitted we could improve the health, safety, and economic outcomes for residents, Town employees, businesses and our community as a whole. Over the last month, Kingston's Emergency Management Team, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Health, have encouraged residents to socially distance themselves, and to stay at home unless it was absolutely necessary. Although there has been a tremendous effort made by those aforementioned groups, ultimately the effort and responsibility to curb COVID-19's grip on our lives has rested with each of you. The decisions that you have made and continue to make each and every day have collectively impacted the health of our entire community. Thank you to all the residents who have socially distanced. Thank you to those who have donned medical gloves, coughed or

sneezed into their elbows, worn face coverings, and vigilantly washed their hands. Your actions have and will continue to prevent the spread of the virus, help preserve hospital capacity for those who are very ill, and will preserve the supply of personal protective equipment that is critically needed by our first responders and frontline medical workers.

With confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the rise, Kingston's Emergency Management Team and Board of Health would like to 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.

Please continue to visit <u>www.kingstonmass.org</u> for daily updates from Kingston's Emergency Management Team, as well as links to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) websites.

Remember, by staying apart we are actually coming together to save lives and prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Be well,

Josh Warren

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman Board of Selectmen