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TOWN OF KINGSTON

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Advisory #34

Thursday, April 16, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 2,466 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase of 158 confirmed cases from yesterday's count of 2,308.

For the past month, we have reported to you the number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 as reported to the Town by the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). The numbers reported by the VNA come from data received by area hospitals and The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). **As of 5:00 PM this evening, the VNA has reported 20 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to the Town of Kingston, an increase of 1 since yesterday.**

As stated in yesterday's update, DPH began a new effort to release the number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 by city and towns at 4:00 PM every Wednesday. The numbers shared by DPH in yesterday's report listed Kingston as having 24 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. After much discussion internally, along with Boards of Health in surrounding towns, the VNA, and by looking at the data provided by the DPH, we are confident in the accuracy of our numbers which have been, and will continue to be vetted by the staff in Kingston's Board of Health Office each day. Not only do we strive to provide residents with the most accurate information possible, we must provide the most accurate information possible to our first responders who may be called to interact with a COVID-19 patient at their home address.

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Douglass and Chief Splaine announced that they were working on procuring additional personal protective equipment (PPE) for their staff through the Commonwealth. This additional PPE will be supplemental to the PPE we are currently receiving from MEMA on an as-needed basis.

Tomorrow morning at 10:30 AM PACTV will air a live COVID-19 Update for Kingston residents. The program will air live on Kingston's government channels (Comcast 14 and Verizon 42) as well as www.pactv.org. Tomorrow's guests will be Sergeant Detective Michael Skowrya, Director of Elder Affairs Paula Rossi-Clapp, and Eric Greer of the Restoration Community Church.

Yesterday afternoon the Food Service Director for the Silver Lake Regional School district announced in an email from Superintendent Jill Proulx that their "Grab and Go" lunch program for students who qualify for free or reduced meals would be altered during the school district's "Spring Break." Because they will not be providing meals from April 20th – April 24th, on Friday, April 17th, they will be providing five meals per

child. On April 27th, the “Grab and Go” program will resume normal service of two meals per child on Mondays and Wednesdays, and one meal per child on Fridays.

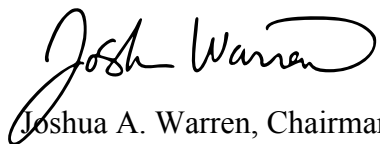
The COA is still accepting cards, drawings, and notes of inspiration to be delivered to seniors over the coming weeks. They ask that you bundle your letters, cards, and pictures, and leave them unsealed in the designated box outside the front door to the COA. Please include your name, or the name of your group, and associated contact information. If you would prefer to donate blank note cards for COA staff to use to send special messages to seniors, those too are welcomed. All donated pieces will be reviewed and disinfected by COA staff before being sent to seniors.

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 www.kingstonmass.org 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua A. Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen