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# TOWN OF KINGSTON

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*Board of Selectmen*

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Advisory #39

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that there were 3,043 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase of 67 from yesterday's total of 2,976. **Earlier today the Town of Kingston was informed of 11 additional confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, bringing the Town's total number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to 41.** Of the Town's total number of confirmed positive cases, 21 are from one facility. Our 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. During the meeting Health Agent Arthur Boyle reported that much of today's increase in confirmed positive cases is largely attributed to proactive measures taken by a residential facility in Kingston who, this past week ordered and administered onsite testing for staff and residents from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Many of these individuals who tested positive were asymptomatic, and the Emergency Management Team applauds the facility's efforts to identify and isolate these patients.

Fire Chief Douglass shared that he would be requesting additional personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) based on the supply Kingston's first responders have used over the past week. Police Chief Splaine discussed challenges faced by his Department relating to the care and custody of detainees at the police station. An action plan has been created to address these challenges.

The group revisited a request made last week by the Kingston Farmers Market to host a Pick-Up Market at the Town House on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. As mentioned in "Advisory 35" last week, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has deemed farmers markets essential businesses during the ongoing public health crisis, and has provided guidelines as to how to operate them safely and responsibly amidst this pandemic. In order to support local businesses, local farmers, and residents who rely on farmers markets for fresh, local goods, Kingston's Health Agent and Chief of Police will be meeting with a representative of the Kingston Farmers Market to find a way to safely and responsibly support their efforts.

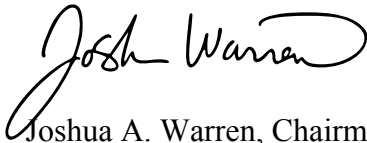
Earlier today the Superintendent of the Silver Lake Regional School District, Jill Proulx, reiterated Governor Baker's Emergency Order that all Massachusetts Public Schools will be closed for the remainder of the year. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will provide additional guidance regarding the next phase of remote learning on Friday, April 24, 2020.

This morning at 10:30 AM, PACTV hosted a COVID-19 Update for the Town of Kingston. The program featured Priscilla Brackett from Kingston's Department of Veterans' Services, Amy Burns, LCSW, a Kingston resident and K-12 Adjustment Counselor in the Duxbury Public School System, and Mike Slawson, Library Tech at the Kingston Public Library. The program will continue to air on Kingston's government channels (Comcast 15 and Verizon 42) and we will post a link to the program on the Town's website as soon as it is made available.

With confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kingston, Plymouth County and the Commonwealth still on the rise, Kingston's Board of Health and Emergency Management Team would like to remind you that this is a crucial time for infection control. We are now more than one month in to a public health crisis with an indeterminate end. COVID-19 will dictate the timeline as to when we will be able to reopen schools, return to work, and regain some sense of normalcy, but our collective actions directly impact the toll this virus takes on our community. 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](http://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.

We are all in this together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua A. Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joshua" being more prominent than the last name "Warren".

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen