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TOWN OF KINGSTON

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Advisory #23

Saturday, April 5, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 963 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 898 cases yesterday. **The Town of Kingston remains at nine confirmed positive cases of COVID-19.** 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.

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.

Kingston's Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Health Agent Arthur Boyle provided additional information regarding yesterday's incident at Stop and Shop's Kingston location.

Shortly before noon yesterday, Kingston Police responded to the store for a report of a disturbance. It is alleged that a 65-year-old male from Duxbury was coughing and spitting on produce and was confrontational with employees and witnesses. The individual was transported to BID Plymouth Hospital by Kingston's EMS to be evaluated. Arthur met with Stop & Shop's store manager and confirmed that all of the produce that was contaminated was disposed of and the area surrounding where the incident occurred (floor, produce stand, etc.) was cleaned and disinfected. A written inventory of what was discarded was provided to Kingston's Board of Health. The vehicle used for the transport to BID was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Kingston's Health Agent and Police will continue to monitor the case. As reported by the Kingston Police Department in a press release yesterday, at this time we have no reason to believe the individual has COVID-19. Since the individual involved is from Duxbury, any pertinent information will be reported to the Duxbury Board of Health. We will communicate what we can with residents as information becomes available.

As a reminder to all Kingston seniors, if you receive a call from someone saying they are from the Council on Aging (COA) and you do not recognize the caller or phone number, please hang up and call the COA at 781-585-0511 to confirm that it is indeed the COA who is offering the services. Do not give out any personal information or your address without confirming first that the call is coming from the COA. At this time only COA staff and reassigned Town employees are representing the COA. All COA staff working in the community have been given an ID tag stating that they are with the COA. Staff have been properly vetted,

trained, and have been given clear safety protocols to follow to support Kingston seniors during this ongoing public health crisis.

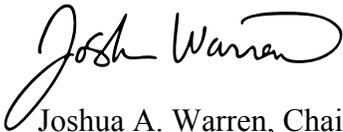
This past week the CDC released new guidelines and recommendations for wearing a mask or other type of face covering when you are out in public. As stated on the CDC's website, studies suggest that a significant portion of those with COVID-19 lack symptoms and that those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between individuals when speaking, coughing, sneezing, etc., even if those people are not showing symptoms. As a result of this information, the CDC now recommends wearing a cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures may be difficult to maintain. The CDC's instructions on how to make face coverings from household items or from common materials at a low cost, has been linked to the Town's website.

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.

Lastly, I wanted to end with a special thanks to all of Kingston's first responders and employees who have responded to this public health crisis with the utmost professionalism and calmness under intense pressure and uncertainty. Patricia Vinchesi, former Town Administrator in Western Massachusetts recently submitted an article to the Daily Hampshire Gazette in which she said, "Your local governments have not only stepped up to respond to this unanticipated crisis, they are exhibiting courageous leadership working endless hours to provide services when everything around us at times may seem scattered and chaotic." Having seen how our public servants have stepped up during this crisis, I can say that Patricia is spot on. Thank you all.

Wishing you a nice weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Warren" clearly legible.

Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen