

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.kinastonmass.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 #24

Monday, April 6, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that there were 1,067 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase from 963 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. Tom Calter reported that as of this morning, all Town employees entering the Town House will be required to don a mask and gloves. Although foot traffic in the building has decreased significantly, staff are still coming in periodically to work, check their mail, and pickup paperwork to bring home. We are hoping to reduce the likelihood that staff will transmit or contract COVID-19 in the building by requiring all those entering the building to wear protection.

With older adults at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, the Emergency Management Team has sourced and designated 600 face masks for the residents of Conifer Green, Town & Country, and Meadowcrest. Distribution will be handled locally within the communities and we will provide additional information as it becomes available.

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 eventual 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.

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.

Tomorrow at 10:30 AM, Kingston will air a LIVE COVID-19 Update on PACTV. This program will be shown live at www.pactv.org and on Kingston's government channels (Comcast 15 and Verizon 42).

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.

We are all in this together.

Josh Warren

Sincerely,

Soshua A. Warren, Chairman

Board of Selectmen