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TOWN OF KINGSTON

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Elaine A. Fiore, Vice Chairman
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Town Administrator/
Chief Procurement Officer
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Advisory #61

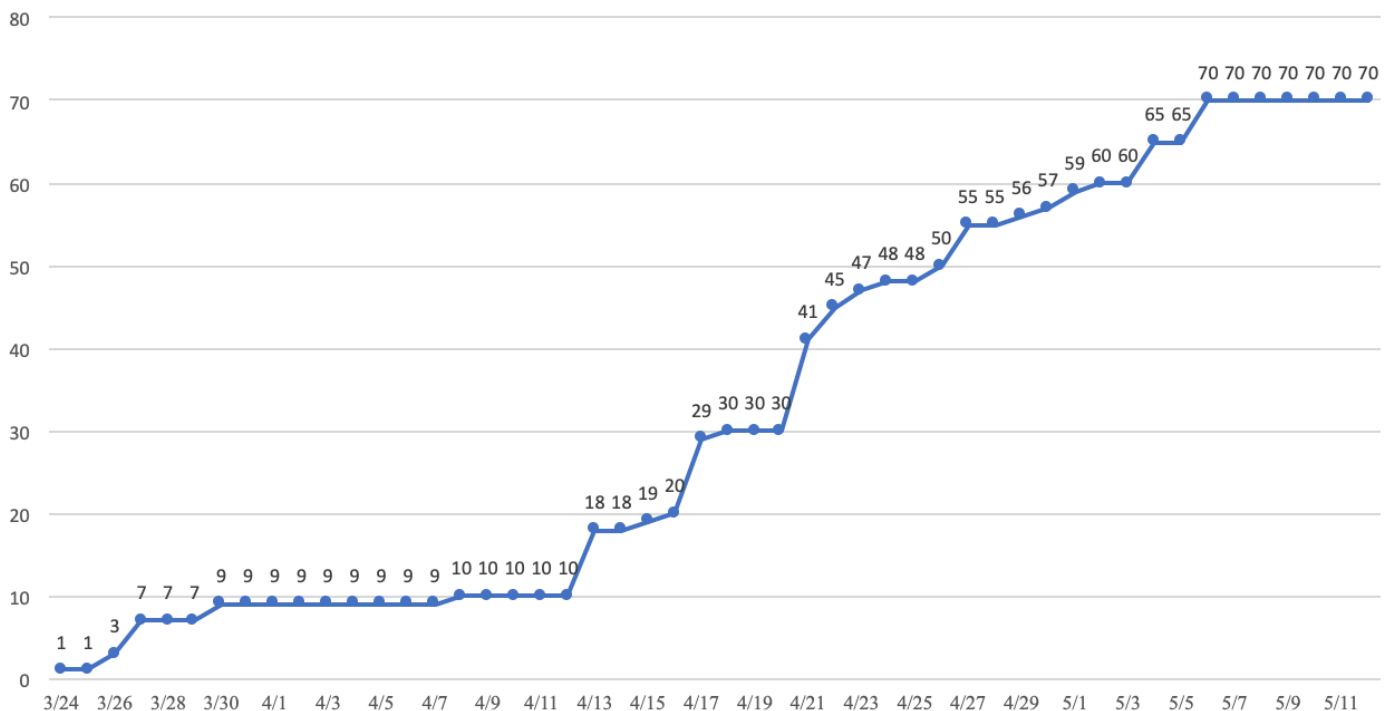
Tuesday, May 12, 2020

To the Residents of Kingston,

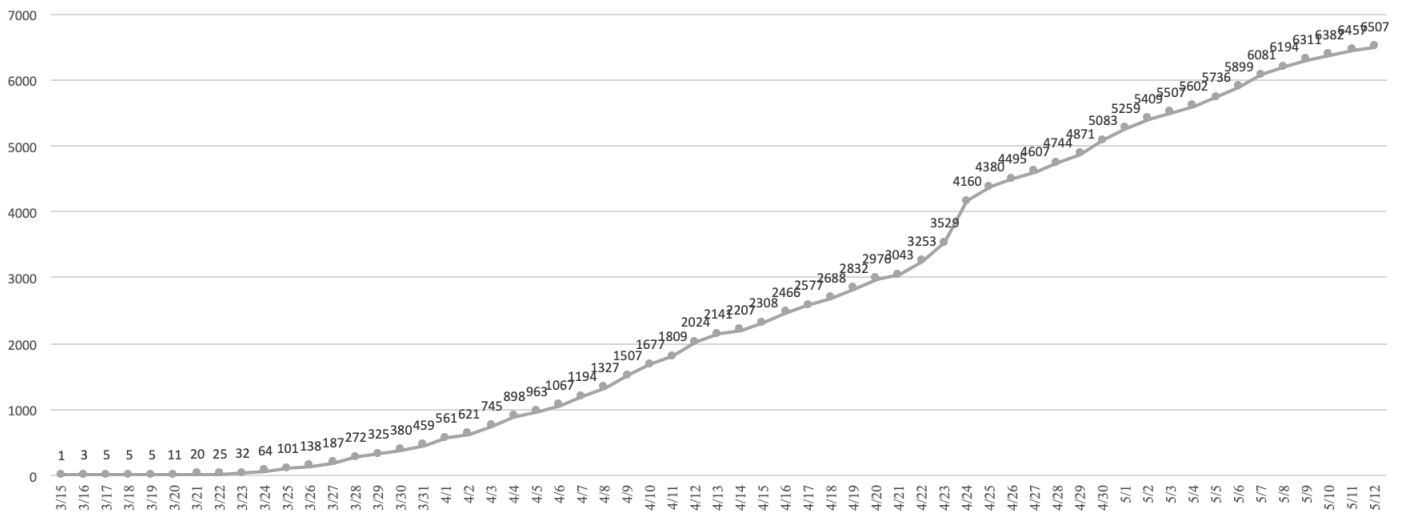
This afternoon the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that there were 6,507 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Plymouth County. This represents an increase of 50 from yesterday's count of 6,457. **The Town's total number of confirmed positive cases remains at 70.** Of the Town's total number of confirmed positive cases, 33 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.

These graphs are a visual companion to the numbers that we have been reporting each day.

Kingston Cases



Plymouth County Cases



Kingston’s Emergency Management Team met today to discuss the Town’s ongoing response to COVID-19. Health Agent Arthur Boyle and Fire Chief Mark Douglass reported on this morning’s meeting with Facilities Manager Brad Norman and Kingston Town Employees Union (KTEU) representative Chris Woods. Arthur, Mark, Brad, and Chris are leading a task force focused on how to safely and responsibly invite employees back into their physical work spaces as we aim to reopen Town buildings and properties to the public. This morning’s meeting was incredibly productive and much progress was made. Focusing first on the Kingston Town House, members of the task force will be meeting with every staff member in every office to optimize workspaces to allow for physical spacing and proper protection between employees and members of the public. The task force is seeking and prioritizing input from staff so that they feel safe and confident returning to their offices. Similar measures are underway at the Highway Barn to ensure staff are able to service the public. Conversations with staff at the Council on Aging will begin on Monday.

Fire Chief Douglass also shared that the Kingston Fire Department secured 60 gallons of hand sanitizer for use in all Town buildings. At a time when hand sanitizer is scarce, this is great news as we look to reopen Town buildings.

As shared in yesterday’s “Advisory #60,” Kingston’s Emergency Management Team discussed requests to report on the number of ‘recovered’ cases of COVID-19 in Kingston. Currently there is no standard definition of what recovered means as it pertains to the virus, and therefore methods of tracking recoveries vary. Some define recovered as being: fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications; having improvement of respiratory symptoms for 72 hours; and having gone seven days since the first symptoms appeared. Yet others define recovered as simply being alive 30 days after testing positive for the virus. There are a host of methodologies defining what it means to be recovered, and in many cases it is understood that the total number is an estimation. As such, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health does not track recovered cases in the Commonwealth, nor do we in Kingston. The state is currently talking with the CDC about standardizing the definition of recovered, so it is possible that as a clear definition is made available and methods of tracking recoveries are developed, this will change.

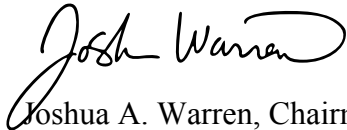
Pursuant to Governor Baker’s Executive Order, effective, Wednesday, May 6th, everyone in the Commonwealth is required to wear a face mask or similar covering in public. This order includes those entering businesses, spending time outdoors, or traveling on public transportation, if they are unable to socially distance themselves from others. The Department of Public Health, local boards of health, and authorized agents pursuant to G. L. c. 111, § 30 are authorized to enforce this Order and if necessary may do so with the assistance of State or municipal police. Violation of the terms of this Order may result in a civil

fine of up to \$300 per violation. Please see the attached announcement regarding Governor Baker's Executive Order from the Kingston Board of Health.

The Special State Senate Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Poll hours will be from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. The Town Clerk's Office has asked that we take this opportunity to communicate the following announcement to precinct 4 voters, also delineated in the attached notice: Due to challenges presented by COVID-19, the Town House will not be open for voting. All Precinct 4 voters who plan to vote in person will be able to cast their ballots at the Kingston Elementary School (100 Main St., Kingston, MA). As of now, this change of venue only applies to the Special State Senate Election. **All voters are asked to wear face masks or similar coverings to protect themselves, their neighbors, and all of our poll workers.**

Lastly, Assistant Town Clerk Diane Poirier shared that from April 12th through May 12th, there were 198,002 views of the COVID-19 page on the Town of Kingston's website. This accounted for 61% of the overall traffic on the Town's website. In comparison, the next most frequented page was the Meeting Calendar, which had 33,605 views. I want to extend my thanks to all of you who are visiting the Town's website to become informed on how COVID-19 is impacting your community. 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.

Thank you for practicing social distancing,



Joshua A. Warren, Chairman
Board of Selectmen



KINGSTON BOARD OF HEALTH

26 EVERGREEN STREET
KINGSTON MASSACHUSETTS 02364
TELEPHONE (781) 585-0503

On May 1, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, issued an order effective 12:01 am, Wednesday, May 6, 2020, requiring individuals to wear masks in public places. This guidance is issued pursuant to that Order to further clarify who is required to wear masks and any exceptions.

Any person who is in a place open to the public in the Commonwealth, when unable to maintain a distance of approximately six feet from every other person, shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering. Masks are required at all times when:

- Inside or waiting in line outside of grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores;
- Providing or using the services of any taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing, or similar service;
- On any form of public transit, including train or bus; and
- In an enclosed or semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area.

The use of a mask does not replace important social distancing measures. All individuals must continue to maintain more than 6 feet of distance from other people; wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; and stay home when sick.

Children under the age of 2 years should not wear face coverings or masks. For children 2 years of age and older, a mask or face covering should be used, if possible. Mask use by children 2 years of age and up to the age of five is encouraged but should be at the discretion of the child's parent or guardian at this time. Parents and guardians should ensure that the mask fits snugly and does not obstruct a child's ability to breathe.

The fit of face coverings should be as follows:

- Fit securely and comfortably against the side of the face;
- Be secured with ties or ear loops;
- Allow for breathing without restriction; and
- Be able to laundered and machine dried without damage or change of shape.

Exceptions for wearing face masks include situations that may inhibit an individual from wearing a face-mask safely. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Those who cannot breathe safely;
- Those who, due to a behavioral health diagnosis, are unable to do so;



KINGSTON BOARD OF HEALTH

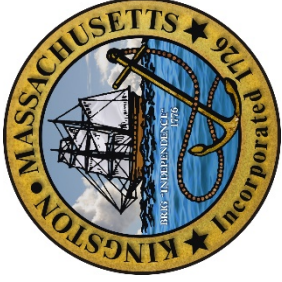
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- Those communicating with people who rely upon lip-reading;
- Those who require supplemental oxygen to breathe; and
- Those who are exercising outdoors and are able to keep physical distance from others.

Masks and face coverings should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use. When possible, masks should be washed in a washing machine. If a washing machine is unavailable, masks should be washed with soap and water and allow drying fully before using again.

The Department of Public Health, local boards of health, and authorized agents pursuant to G. L. c. 111, § 30 are authorized to enforce this Order and if necessary may do so with the assistance of State or municipal police. Violation of the terms of this Order may result in a civil fine of up to \$300 per violation.

Thank you for helping keep Kingston safe and healthy during this Public Health Emergency.



Special State Senate Election

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Poll Hours: 7:00am – 8:00pm

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PRECINCT 4 VOTERS

Voting at the Town House will not be available as has been in the past. You may cast your ballot at the Kingston Elementary School Cafeteria, 100 Main Street, Kingston for this Election only.

This is only for the May 19 Special Election!

The precinct will return to the Town House for Precinct 4 Voters after May 19 unless additional notification is received.

Please wear face masks and protect yourself, your neighbors and the pollworkers.