COVID-19 UPDATES IN NORFOLK – MARCH 13, 2020

The Town wishes to alert all residents of decisions made today to close schools and cancel scheduled programs at the Council on Aging and the Library effective immediately.

The superintendents of the Norfolk Public Schools and King Philip Regional School District announced today that both school districts will be closing their facilities for the next two weeks out of an abundance of caution in an effort to reduce the risk of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to the school communities. From Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 27th, all schools in our districts will be closed, including the King Philip High School in Wrentham.

The Norfolk Public Library has canceled all scheduled programs for the next two weeks, and all rentals of rooms for other events have also been canceled. The Library will remain open for patrons to visit and obtain materials and other services.

The Council on Aging will continue to remain open, but will be canceling all scheduled programing for the week of March 16 – 20. Residents are welcomed to drop in to the center, or to reach center staff for assistance by telephone. We will continue to monitor updates from public health officials, and will determine weekly whether to cancel any further programing.

Town Boards and Committees will continue to hold meetings as scheduled. Residents are reminded that a number of these meetings are streamed live and/or taped and available at. www.youtube.com/norfolkcable

These decisions have been made by the Town and the School Superintendents after consideration and review of the facts and circumstances of the rapidly unfolding novel coronavirus crisis, which has been designated a global pandemic by the World Health
Organization (WHO). We believe these measures are important to proactively mitigate the risk to residents, staff and the school community.

Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and can appear between two and 14 days after exposure, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Anyone who experiences symptoms and believes they may have the virus is advised to contact their health care provider. For more information from the CDC for those who may have the virus, click here.

The Town encourages everyone to follow recommended preventative steps from the DPH:

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds including under your fingernails. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content) can be used when soap and water are not available.
- Keep your hands away from your face.
- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing with a tissue and discard it immediately. Cough into the sleeve over your elbow instead of your hand. Wash your hands often when coughing and sneezing.
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.

For more information, visit the DPH website by clicking here and the CDC’s website by clicking here.