Town of Norfolk COVID-19 Updates and Precautions

March 16, 2020

Town Officials and Emergency Management personnel continue monitoring the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation.

Municipal and Government Services are taking precautions to minimize the potential for person-to-person spread of the virus, also referred to as “community spread.” As such, Town Officials are:

- Residents are STRONGLY encouraged to limit their visits to public buildings to essential services and utilizing our on-line services or contact us by telephone.
- We are in the process of planning for remote participation of essential meetings scheduled within its public buildings
- Adopting precautions for essential public services including police, fire & EMS, Public Works
- Continuing other essential services such as building and fire inspections, though prioritizing those for the safety of the public and employees. Permits can be applied for and managed on line.

Updates will continue to be posted to the Town’s website as well as on the Town of Norfolk’s Facebook page.

Please also visit the following websites for additional information:

- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Massachusetts Departments of Public Health
**Understand Community Spread**

Minimizing personal contact can help reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus infections, which will help decrease the impacts to our healthcare systems. Knowing the symptoms and understanding the virus also helps.

- [COVID-19 Facts](#)
- [Steps to Prevent Illness](#)
- [How the virus transmits](#)

**Status of Norfolk’s Municipal Buildings**

**Town Hall**

- Will remain open but residents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to minimize physical visits to only essential business
- Building, electrical and plumbing inspections will be performed, though inspections may be prioritized depending on need
- Assessor’s Office inspections will be postponed until April 6th for all but exterior of buildings
- Tax and water payments may be made on line or dropped off in the Town Hall drop box outside of our building entrance

**The Council on Aging**

- Staff will be on site and is available via phone 508.528.4430 or email snorman@norfolk.ma.us
- The Center closed for drop in, classes and programs until further notice
- Social service is available by telephone by calling the Center
- Essential transportation to medical appointments and necessary grocery shopping, pharmacy pickups, etc. upon request
- GATRA continues to offer its dial-a-ride services appointments can be made by dialing 800-698-7676
- Meals on Wheels delivery will continue for now
**Norfolk Public Library**

- The Library will be closed for in person visits effective March 16th, tentatively planning to reopen on March 30th. More details are available at their website which is: [https://norfolkpl.org/](https://norfolkpl.org/)
- Week of March 16th patrons may pick up items on hold between 10 AM – 5 PM (no weekend or evening hours). All materials will be available in the lobby
- All return dates will be automatically extended to April 15th
- No passport appointments will be available during the closure period
- Library staff will be available on line and by telephone to assist residents with access to on line resources

**Schools**

- Per the order of Governor Baker, Norfolk Public Schools and the King Philip School District are closed during the next three weeks (March 16 – April 6)
- Norfolk School’s will be offering pickup grab and go bags with a week’s worth of lunches on Tuesday, March 17th & March 24th from 9 AM – 10 AM at the Freeman Kennedy School, Door #4 to the Superintendent’s Office
- Food distribution for the King Philip Regional School District will take place on Thursday, March 19th 9-10AM at the Anna Jackson Elementary School located at 68 Messenger Street, Plainville

**Public Safety Buildings and DPW**

- Will remain open but residents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to minimize physical visits to only essential business. Do not visit any of our buildings if you are exhibiting flu-like symptoms or are feeling run-down
- Fire inspections will be limited to essential inspections such as smoke detectors for real estate closings.
- DPW will perform water inspections and respond to emergencies as needed.
- Residents needing final readings for real estate closings should call DPW to make arrangements for those to be handled remotely
- The Transfer Station has limited the collection of some materials but remains open on its regular schedule. Please check the DPW website page for updates on recyclable items, bulk items, etc.
• Please be reminded that most of the services the Town provides to its residents and other constituents can be conducted over the phone, via email, or through the website at www.Norfolk.ma.us
• DPW: 508.528.4990; Police: 508.52.3206; Fire: 508.528.3207

Recreation Commission

• Recreation has suspended all programming at this point
• Fields will not open for teams and practices until at least April 7th
• Contact Recreation at 508.520.1315 for assistance.

If you need to physically visit a Town building:

or in any public place for that matter

• DO NOT leave your house if you are feeling ill or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
• frequently wash your hands (at least 20 second with soapy hot water)
• use hand sanitizer as alternative
• cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, which should be disposed of in a sanitary manner as soon as possible
• maintain personal space of 6-feet or more
• DO NOT touch your face, eyes, or mouth
• Sign up for Citizen alerts on the Home Page of the Website: https://townofnorfolk.bbcportal.com/ to receive alerts by telephone, email or text.
• Visit the Board of Health’s website http://norfolk.ma.us/boards-committees/board-of-health/ for additional information and facts on how the virus spreads, personal precautions you can take, and what is considered high and low risk - 508.528.7747

Updates Concerning Norfolk’s Response to COVID-19 Developments:

• Will be posted to www.Norfolk.ma.us and sent via email through https://townofnorfolk.bbcportal.com/
• government meetings or community event cancellations will be posted at http://www.mytowntgovernment.org/02056
• some government meetings have legislative details that are currently being considered and the Town Administrator will issue updates as those details are being worked through
• NCTV records many of the Town’s board and committee meetings, which can be viewed online
• Please visit the MassDPH for updates, FAQs, and additional information.

Additional Steps: Town Alerts

We appreciate your patience as we continue to monitor the situation. During this time, we recommend taking a few moments to review your notification options for Citizen Alerts at https://townofnorfolk.bbcportal.com/ the Town’s official emergency notification system.

March 13, 2020 Update – Norfolk Public Schools and King Philip Regional Schools will be closed from March 16 – March 27

March 12, 2020 Update –

• Norfolk Public Schools and King Philip School District canceled various events and co-curricular activities
• Council on Aging St. Patrick’s Day lunch canceled
• Library had not canceled programs or events as of this date
• Recreation had moved or canceled adult programing, Children’s programming was continuing All library programs for all ages are suspended until further notice, effective March 17, 2020.
• Library operations and services will continue.

The Town of Norfolk, is working closely to monitor and prepare for COVID-19. Town officials continue to discuss protective measures in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines.