COVID-19 Update – May 14, 2020

Cases of COVID-19 in Norfolk
On Mondays and Thursdays, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the Board of Health with data on the number of Norfolk residents suffering from, or who have died from, COVID-19. The table below summarizes this information as of May 14.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>New (since 5/11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Cases</td>
<td>Recovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
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Since March 1st, Norfolk has had a total of twenty-three (23) confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, with one more case since May 11th. Four (4) cases are active, and eighteen (18) are recorded as “recovered”. We are saddened to share that one individual has passed away. Our deepest and sincere condolences go out to this resident’s family and friends.

The State continues to experience an increase in cases, and residents are strongly encouraged to follow the guidance of the DPH and the Federal CDC to avoid catching the virus. Avoidance starts with staying at home as much as possible. If you do go out, wear a face cover that covers your nose and mouth, and stay at least six feet away from others. When you return, be sure to clean your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water. An advisory regarding face coverings and cloth masks can be found at https://www.mass.gov/news/advisory-regarding-face-coverings-and-cloth-masks.

Early Voting by Mail for the June 23rd Town Election – each household where a registered voter resides will soon be receiving a letter and application for an early vote by mail ballot. Voters who would like to vote remotely may apply to the Town Clerk as an alternative to coming to vote in person on Tuesday, June 23rd.

The Council on Aging staff & community groups are providing a variety of services to seniors and families in need:
- Meals on Wheels is available to any senior (age 60+), please contact our provider HESSCO at 781-784-4944
- Residents who are at risk may apply for emergency food/meals, contact the COA
- Norfolk Food Pantry – Contact 508-528-5862, option 4 for assistance.
- Volunteers are available for grocery shopping, pharmacy pickup, reassurance calls, etc. contact the COA
- The Federated Church has set up a phone line to leave a message for anyone who needs assistance, call 508-29-7937
The following are reminders from past updates:

Face Masks – effective **Wednesday, May 6th** Governor Baker issued an order requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible and this applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. More information on this topic can be found at [https://www.mass.gov/news/wear-a-mask-in-public](https://www.mass.gov/news/wear-a-mask-in-public).

Contact tracing has begun for all persons who have tested positive for the virus. The Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative COVID team will be contacting each person by phone to provide support through quarantine and to identify close contact to stop the spread. Please answer calls that have one of two area codes: (833) or (857).

Stay at Home Advisory: The stay at home advisory has been extended to **Monday, May 18th**. All non-essential businesses must remain closed or work remotely. Information on this order and details about what services are deemed essential and not subject to the order can be found at [https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19](https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19).

4th Quarter Tax Payments
The deadline to pay real estate and personal property taxes has been extended by a vote of the Select Board from May 1st to June 1st, 2020. More information on how to reschedule a payment already set to be paid automatically and other payment options to residents is available on our website.

School & Child Care Closures extended
The Governor extended the closure of all public and private schools through the end of the school year, and all non-emergency childcare programs until June 29, 2020.

Recreation Commission Updates:
- programs are currently scheduled to start in late May, some summer programs will start after June 22nd, most will start July 1st or later.
- Pond Street Recreation complex is open only for use of the ¾ mile walking trail. All Town fields, pavilion, skate park and basketball courts are all closed.
- The Town’s playgrounds are closed, tennis courts are opened

Transfer Station
- Open on its regular schedule – Wednesday 9:30 AM – 5 PM, Saturday 8 AM – 4 PM
- Recycling of household items is being accepted
- Bag stickers will be available for sale at the Transfer Station when they are open – Staff will sell strips of 10 stickers for $25.00 – checks only/NO cash.
- Bag stickers may be purchased on line on the Town’s website - [https://unipaygold.unibank.com/customerinfo.aspx](https://unipaygold.unibank.com/customerinfo.aspx)
- Bulk waste and electronic goods are not being accepted at this time (white goods, mattresses, bulk materials, clothing, books, e-waste, KP can collections)

- **Board/Committee meetings** are being held remotely using the Zoom on-line platform. Agendas include information as to how to access a meeting remotely.
• **Town Buildings** – all buildings are closed to the public, but all of our staff is in place either at their office or remotely to take calls and maintain services.
  o **Fire department** smoke detector inspections have been suspended per an order of Governor Baker. Residential house closings may go forward without this certificate.

• **Building Inspections** – are being conducted, with protocols to ascertain whether it is safe to enter your home.
  o **Animal Control services** - calls may be prioritized where animals pose a public safety issue, animal rescues, bats in houses & issues with transmittable diseases, protective custody of pets, cruelty/neglect investigations, assistance with lack of food.

**Town Department Phone Numbers:**
- Assessors: 508-528-1120
- Conservation: 508-541-8455
- Council on Aging: 508-528-4430
- Public Works: 508-528-4990
- Fire Dept (business line): 508-528-3207
- Board of Health: 508-528-7747
- Library: 508-528-3380
- Police Dept (business line): 508-528-3206
- Recreation Department: 508-520-1315
- Town Administrator/Select Board: 508-440-2855
- Town Clerk: 508-528-1400
- Treasurer/Tax Collector: 508-520-0058
- Veterans Services: 508-528-8485

**Miscellaneous**
- GATRA’s regularly scheduled routes have been suspended but they are offering dial a ride service at no cost, please contact them at 800-698-7676
- Local volunteers have established a website detailing community effort to aid people in need for food and various services: [www.Feedourvillage.com](http://www.Feedourvillage.com)

**For the most up-to-date public health information, please visit these websites:**
- Massachusetts 2-1-1 – [https://mass211.org](https://mass211.org)
- Town Website – [https://www.norfolk.ma.us](https://www.norfolk.ma.us)
- Town Facebook – [https://www.facebook.com\norfolkma](https://www.facebook.com\norfolkma)

**For school news and updates:**
- Norfolk Public Schools Website – [https://district.norfolk.k12.ma.us](https://district.norfolk.k12.ma.us)
- King Philip Regional Schools – [www.kingphilip.org](http://www.kingphilip.org)

Thank you for your patience and efforts as we navigate this ever-changing situation. Please sign up for Citizen Alerts at [https://townofnorfolk.bbcportal.com/](https://townofnorfolk.bbcportal.com/) the Town’s official emergency notification system.