



TOWN OF BEDFORD

97 MCMAHON ROAD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

Town of Bedford Update on COVID-19

March 16, 2020 - TODAY'S update includes late Sunday information as well as today's information.

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola do seu filho - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译, 请联系您的孩子的学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة ، هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلاتك

The COVID-19 Task Force is comprised of the following Town officials:

Sarah Stanton, Town Manager
Jon Sills, Superintendent of Schools
Heidi Porter, Director of Health and Human Services
Robert Bongiorno, Police Chief
David Grunes, Fire Chief
Taissir Alani, Facilities Director

The Governor has declared a State of Emergency in Massachusetts due to COVID-19.

Update-Governor Baker Announcement-March 15, 2020

- Governor Charlie Baker announced Sunday evening, March 15, 2020 that all bars and restaurants in Massachusetts would be shut down to on premise consumption starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through April 5, 2020. This order allows bars and restaurants to continue to offer food for takeout or delivery. The order does not apply to grocery stores or pharmacies
- Large gatherings of over 25 people are banned, in an effort to stem the coronavirus outbreak in the Commonwealth. This order includes all community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, as well as sports games with spectators, concerts, and conventions. It also covers fitness centers, private clubs, and theaters.
- There will be a three-week suspension for all public and private schools, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through April 6, 2020. The 3-week suspension of school operations for educational purposes at all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth (not including residential and day schools for special needs students). Suspension of educational programming would not necessarily affect the availability of school buildings for the provision of food or other essential non-educational services. As April 6 approaches, the Governor's administration will provide additional guidance. As such, Bedford Public Schools will be closed through April 6, 2020, or until further guidance is provided. The District will monitor the public health situation as it evolves.
- During this period, it is critical that students and their families, as well as school staff, stay home as much as possible. If an individual needs to leave home, it is essential to strictly follow social distancing guidelines by avoiding crowds, canceling social gatherings, and maintaining a safe separation of at least 6 feet from others. Restricting access to school buildings will have little impact on public health if these best practices are not followed in good faith.

- The suspension of educational operations at K-12 schools will inevitably affect the provision of pre-school and childcare services. Although the Commonwealth is ordering the closure of childcare programs at this time, they are strongly urging childcare providers to strictly observe guidelines that are being issued by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), which call for temporary closures based on actual direct or indirect exposures to individuals with COVID-19.
- Nursing homes, assisted living facilities and long-term care providers must ban visitors, with an exception for end-of-life providers. Hospitals must postpone non-medically urgent surgeries. Drugstores will have the ability to make, and sell, their own hand-sanitizer.

March 16, 2020

The Bedford COVID-19 Task Force met Monday, March 16, 2020 to review the latest guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH), the office of Governor Charlie Baker, and Town Legal Counsel.

Active Cases

As of today, March 16, 2020, there are three (3) presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Bedford, and three (3) People Under Investigation. We are actively monitoring the quarantined close contacts of the (3) presumptive positive cases, and if they report applicable symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, cough, chills, etc.) we direct them to contact their health care provider. All close contacts of the (3) presumptive positive cases have been identified at this time and notified of the need to quarantine. If you have not been contacted by the Board of Health and told to quarantine, you were not deemed to be a close contact of one of the (3) presumptive positive cases.

Anyone exhibiting flu-like symptoms should immediately self-quarantine, isolate from household members and contact their healthcare provider for further guidance on whether testing is warranted.

Town/School Update-Temporary Food Pantry- March 16, 2020

- To assist and support Bedford residents in need, the Town is establishing a temporary large-scale food bank at John Glenn Middle School (JGMS).
- The Bedford Food Pantry, located at Town Center Building- 12 Mudge Way, is not a large enough physical space, or staffed operation, to address the widespread need of this public health pandemic. Residents who use the Bedford Food Pantry will be directed to the facilities at John Glenn Middle School for services. The Bedford Food Pantry will remain closed until further notice.
- Working closely with Bedford Public Schools Food Services Director, Ken Whittier, and the COVID-19 Task Force, beginning Friday, March 20, 2020, the Town will open a food bank which will be open to the public, for drive-thru, or on foot, pick-up, on Tuesday, and Friday of each week until further notice. To ensure food safety, the food bank will not be accepting outside food donations. Residents will be given food necessities to ensure that those in need are supported during this time. If residents arrive on foot, please observe social distancing as you queue.
- Food will also be delivered to our non-mobile elderly and disabled residents, impacted large-housing complexes, as well as students/families who are not able to drive to JGMS. This effort will also include impacted students at Hanscom Air Force Base, and students in the METCO program.
- The Town anticipates having the first food-bank pick-up begin on Friday, March 20, 2020 at John Glenn Middle School. Additional details on time of day, and set-up, will be included in a future daily update.

General Updates- March 16, 2020

Town Update-Building Closures to the Public- March 16, 2020

- Effective Monday, March 16, 2020 at 5:00 PM all Town buildings are closed to the public. Closure of public access includes all Bedford Public Schools, the Council on Aging, Bedford Free Public Library, Old Town Hall, Town Center, and Town Hall.
- The following departments will have staff available via phone and e-mail: Board of Health, Code Enforcement, Council on Aging, Facilities, Finance, Public Works, Town Clerk, Town Manager, and Youth and Family Services. Public safety and other essential services will continue with special precautions to keep those employees safe.
- To reach the aforementioned departments, please the numbers listed below. Due to reduced staffing levels at this time, there may be a delay in responding to your request. Visit www.bedfordma.gov for additional information. Call 781-275-1111 if you are unsure which department you require.

Department List	Phone Number
Board of Health	781-275-6507
Code Enforcement	781-275-4010
Council on Aging	781-275-6825
Facilities	781-275-5290
Finance (Assessor/Collector/Treasurer)	781-275-2218
Public Works	781-275-7605
Town Clerk	781-275-0083
Town Manager	781-275-1111
Youth and Family Services	781-275-7727
Bedford Public Schools	781-275-7588

- The School Department will be checking phone messages throughout the day, and will return calls accordingly.
- Code Enforcement inspectional requests will be addressed on a case by basis. Residents, and contractors, are encouraged to e-mail, or call, the Code Enforcement Department for project-specific clarification. If your home is currently under quarantine for COVID-19, staff will not be performing inspections.

Category of Inspection	Staff Contact	Email
Building	Chris Laskey	claskey@bedfordma.gov
Conservation	Chris Laskey	claskey@bedfordma.gov
Electrical	Jack Landers	jlanders@bedfordma.gov
Fire	Captain John Daniels	jdaniels@bedfordma.gov
Health	Katherine Dagle	kdagle@bedfordma.gov
Plumbing/Gas	Jim Powderly	jpowderly@bedfordma.gov
Water/Sewer	Jason Raposa	jraposa@bedfordma.gov

- Town officials continue to urge residents to deploy social distancing, and limit social gathering. Go for a socially distanced walk, order take-out, get your coffee to-go, pick up a gift certificate, and support the local business communities from a distance.

- Public health officials strongly discourage activities that promote gathering of people, including play dates, sleepovers, parties, social visits, and other activities where closer contact is the norm. Additionally, health officials are strongly recommending that all childcare / day care facilities consider closing in alignment with the Town of Bedford Public Schools.
- The Town has stated and continues to advise that those — including municipal employees, residents, or students — who are feeling sick with fever or flu symptoms should stay home, self-quarantine, not report to work or school, and contact their medical provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
- For previous updates on COVID-19 please review the COVID-19 News and Announcements Page at on the town website (www.bedfordma.gov).

It is important to remember that while the COVID-19 outbreak is evolving quickly, influenza is currently circulating in the area. Many of the things you do to help prevent colds and the flu can help protect you against other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Employ social distancing if you are not otherwise required to be in quarantine and must go out.
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The best source of guidance and recommendations is the DPH website: www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus

Or, if you are without internet capabilities, please call the State hotline: **2-1-1**

You can also the Town of Bedford website for local updates and actions: www.bedfordma.gov

Town and School officials, and the Bedford Health Department, remain in continuous communication about this issue, and further updates will be provided to the community as we receive them.