



TOWN OF BEDFORD
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BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

Town of Bedford Update on COVID-19

March 18, 2020

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The Bedford COVID-19 Task Force met Tuesday, March 18, 2020 to review the latest guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH), the office of Governor Charlie Baker, and Town Legal Counsel.

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

Active Cases

As of today, March 18, 2020, there are four (4) presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Bedford, and two (2) People Under Investigation. The Board of Health continues to do the appropriate follow-up and outreach.

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 Bank- March 18, 2020

To assist and support Bedford residents in need, the Town is establishing a limited temporary food bank at John Glenn Middle School (JGMS).

At this time, the Bedford Food Bank will serve the following population: school-aged children/families of the Bedford Public Schools in need of food support at this time (including, but not limited to, students currently on free or reduced breakfast and lunch), previously identified vulnerable seniors and veterans, and existing clients of the Bedford Food Pantry.

- Families seeking support for school-aged children: bags will include five days' worth of children's breakfast and lunch fixings, and a few additional items to support the entire family, and will be distributed by school administrators at the JGMS drive-thru Food Bank.
- Vulnerable seniors and veterans, and existing clients of the Bedford Food Pantry: bags will contain goods for meal preparation.

To learn more about the food bank, and the ways to financially donate, please check out:

<https://www.bedfordma.gov/bedfordfoodbank>

Town Update- March 17, 2020- Local Business Initiative

To protect the most vulnerable members of our community, Chip-In Farms, Stop and Shop, and Whole Foods are now offering modified hours for seniors to grocery shop.

- *Chips-In Farms: 9:30-10:00 AM*
- *Stop and Shop: 6:00-7:30 AM*
- *Whole Foods: One-hour before opening. Please check www.wholefoods.com to confirm hours.*

Friday, March 20, 2020, the Bedford Board of Health will meet remotely to declare a local state of emergency for the Town of Bedford. Under the State of Emergency, the Board of Health will be requiring the closure of all fitness facilities, sports complexes, and encouraging local day-care providers to close in alignment with the Bedford Public Schools. The Town will provide further details as part of the daily update on Friday, March 20, 2020.

General Updates- March 17, 2020

- 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.
- 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.

The best source of guidance and recommendations is the DPH website: www.mass.gov/covid19

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.