



**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
97 MCMAHON ROAD  
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

## **Town of Bedford Update on COVID-19**

**March 20, 2020**

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/طفلتك

The Bedford COVID-19 Task Force met Friday, March 20, 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*

### Active Cases

As of today, March 20, 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.

### School Information: Home Learning

The BPS website designed to share resources and learning enrichment information and activities is now live: <https://sites.google.com/bedfordps.org/bps-resources-and-enrichment>

### Town/School Update-Temporary Bedford Food Bank

To assist and support Bedford residents in need, the Town launched the temporary Bedford Food Bank at the John Glenn Middle School (JGMS). Town and School staff, along with members of the Fire and Police Departments, came together to help make the first day of the Bedford Food Bank a success. A special thank you to all who helped today!

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 included five days' worth of children's breakfast and lunch fixings, and a few additional items to support the entire family, and was distributed by school administrators at the JGMS drive-thru Food Bank.
- Vulnerable seniors and veterans, and existing clients of the Bedford Food Pantry: bags contained goods for meal preparation and were distributed by Town Staff at the JGMS drive-thru Food Bank.

To learn more about the food bank, please check out: <https://www.bedfordma.gov/bedfordfoodbank>

### General Guidance

- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.