



TOWN OF NORFOLK

ONE LIBERTY LANE
NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS

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COVID-19 Update – April 16, 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 April 16.

Total			New (since 4/13)
Confirmed Cases	Recovered	Deceased	Confirmed Cases
14	5	1	1

Keep in mind that the above numbers of confirmed cases are inevitably much smaller than the numbers of residents actually infected by the COVID-19 virus. Many health care providers advise patients with mild symptoms to just stay home and treat the symptoms. Other residents may have been infected and never knew it.

DPH anticipates a surge in cases over the next few weeks, 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 and stay at least six feet away from others. When you return, be sure to clean your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water. For more complete descriptions of precautions you should take inside and outside your home, please go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>.

Since March 1st, Norfolk has had a total of fourteen (14) confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, one of which is new as of April 16th. Eight cases are active, and of the remaining six, five have been 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 following are reminders from past updates:

Recreation Commission Updates:

- The Spring/Summer Brochure will be mailed later this week. Registration for spring/summer programs begins April 16th. Spring 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. The fields, pavilion, skate park and basketball courts are all closed.
- The Town’s playgrounds are closed

- The Tennis courts are open

Spring Mosquito Control Application:

The spring application for mosquito control will take place between April 13 – 27. Spraying will be limited in Norfolk to larger bodies of water and not in areas of neighborhoods due the likelihood of more residents being at home during this time period. Application will be done by helicopter as in past years. The Board of Health believes that this reduction in the area to be sprayed will have no effect on the prevalence of EEE during the summer, as further application will be done prior to this time. Further information is available on the Board of Health's webpage.

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.

Food Sources – and other assistance - for seniors and families in need

During this challenging time, the Town of Norfolk would like to remind residents of the following resources available to seniors and families in need. Please call the Council on Aging 508-528-4430 should you need assistance. Staff is available Monday through Friday 9:00-4:00. We also have volunteers available to do food delivery, grocery shopping, prescription pick up, etc.

- Meals on Wheels - home delivered meals for anyone age 60 and older. Call HESSCO to sign up 1-781-784-4944.
- KP schools providing bags of food. Pick up at Jackson School, 68 Messenger St., Plainville Monday and Thursdays 9:00-11:00am and 5:00-6:00pm.
- YMCA branches in North Attleboro, Foxboro and Franklin – grocery bags of food available for pick up Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm and 5:00-6:00pm.
- Norfolk Food Pantry – Call 508-528-5862 to arrange a pick-up time.
- The Federated Church has set up a phone line to leave a message for anyone who needs assistance 508-298-7937.

Transfer Station

- Open on its regular schedule – Wednesday 9:30 AM – 5 PM, Saturday 8 AM – 4 PM
- Recycling of household items has been reinstated (paper, glass, plastic, aluminum/tin)
- Yard Waste will be 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 also now be purchased on line on the Town's website - <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)
- Updates on changes at the Transfer station can be found on the Town's website at: <http://norfolk.ma.us/assets/files/town-of-norfolk-dpw-covid-19-protocols-4.3.20.pdf>

Stay at Home Advisory: The stay at home advisory ordered by the State has been extended to **Monday, May 4th**. All non-essential businesses must close 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>.

- **Board/Committee meetings** that cannot be cancelled will be held remotely using the Zoom on-line platform. Agendas includes the information regarding how to access a meeting remotely, and further information about how to navigate this on-line platform is available on the Town's website.
- **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. Many services can be accessed on line: Library services, various permits, taxes and bill payments.
- **The Council on Aging** staff are continuing to provide a variety of services:
 - Meals on Wheels is available to any senior (age 60+), please contact our provider HESCO at 781-784-4944
 - Residents who are at risk may apply for emergency meals, contact the COA
 - Food Pantry – Contact 508-528-5862, option 4 for assistance.
 - Medications – some pharmacies are offering free delivery or contact the COA to arrange a pickup.
- **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 still being conducted. Please understand that in order to ensure your safety and that of our staff, you will be asked some questions regarding infectious diseases so that we can ascertain whether it is safe to enter your home.
- **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

As a Reminder:

- Take every day precautionary actions to avoid the spread of respiratory viruses, such as washing your hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and warm water (or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available), avoiding people who are sick, avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth, and covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue. If you are sick stay home.

- If you have a fever and/or respiratory illness and have either come into contact with the virus or traveled within the last 14 days, contact your primary health care provider.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Think about your own personal preparedness for you and your family (<https://www.mass.gov/know-plan-prepare>).

For the most up-to-date public health information, please visit these websites:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization – <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Massachusetts 2-1-1 – <https://mass211.org>

Mass.gov: Know, Plan, Prepare – <https://www.mass.gov/know-plan-prepare>

Town Website – <https://www.norfolk.ma.us>

Town Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/norfolkma>

For school news and updates:

Norfolk Public Schools Website – <https://district.norfolk.k12.ma.us>

King Philip Regional Schools – 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/> the Town's official emergency notification system.