



TOWN OF HOPKINTON
18 Main Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748

COVID-19 Updates & Precautions

March 19, 2020 PM update

Town Officials and Emergency Management personnel continue to monitor the rapidly evolving COVID-19 public health emergency. As of 12:00 p.m. on 3/19/20, Hopkinton's Health Department has the same 3 confirmed COVID-19 cases. We have 30 individuals under quarantine; 16 of those are without symptoms. We continue to evaluate and implement mitigation strategies to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Currently, in Hopkinton we do not have any unlinked cases, they are either related to travel or close contact with a known case of COVID-19. Improved social distancing efforts should reduce or stabilize the recent increase. Our mitigation strategy is focused on protecting the most vulnerable population, preserving the public safety and health care workforce and to minimize the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Individuals, businesses and the community are all part of this mitigation strategy.

At this time, all town buildings are closed to the public.

Parks, Playgrounds and Playing Fields ARE CLOSED.

Essential public safety services provided by the Department of Public Works, Hopkinton Police Department and Hopkinton Fire Department will continue.

Health Department - NEW UPDATE

The Hopkinton Health Department has created a decision tree to help guide employers in advising employees how to determine if they should stay home. [Click here to see the guide.](#)

Hopkinton Public Schools - NEW UPDATE

The HPS Food Service Director is partnering with Project Just Because to ensure needy families are fed. If families of school-aged children have not yet reached out to Food Services Director Michelle Babin at mbabin@hopkinton.k12.ma.us or by phone at 774-346-0645 to secure lunches or other meals, please do so!

Reminder: **Online learning experiences** began yesterday, March 18th. If your child has not yet engaged in online learning, please click this link to the [Hopkinton Public Schools website](#) to learn how to do so at each school.

Youth and Family Services - NEW UPDATE

Massachusetts 2-1-1

Massachusetts residents are urged to use 2-1-1 for information, resources, and referrals regarding COVID-19. Operators are staffing this hotline 24/7 and translators are available in multiple languages. Residents with questions can dial 2-1-1 from any landline or cellphone, or use the live chat option on the Mass 2-1-1 website. There are 17 staff now answering calls, including staff from United Way and 7 staff members from DPH.

Mental Health Support: A variety of mental health resources can be found on the Mental Health Resource/INTERFACE card found here: <http://bit.ly/2wmSFEP>

Food Resources: Project Just Because is the central location for residents who have limited access to food. More information can be found at <https://projectjustbecause.org/> or by calling 508-435-6511. Hours of operation for food distribution 9:30am to 3:30pm Monday - Thursday.

Unemployment due to COVID19: If you have become unemployed due to the closing of your workplace, reduction in the workforce, or short term because of the illness itself (sick, quarantined, etc.) this link has the online application for unemployment assistance. <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-unemployment-and-coronavirus-covid-19>

Resources for parental stress

<https://www.parentshelpingparents.org/parental-stress-line>

<https://www.nationalparenthelpline.org/find-support>

Mommying is Hard facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2180286238744260/>

Feeling extremely stressed or desperate? Call and text lines for 24/7 support

<https://www.uwotc.org/call2talk>

<https://samaritanshope.org/>

Remember to check out our Facebook page for daily updates of resources and things to do to help with staying busy during this challenging time:

<https://www.facebook.com/hopkintonyouthandfamilyservices/>

DPW - NEW UPDATE

With the run on toilet paper and a focus on disinfecting surfaces, it appears that more households are using disinfectant wipes and paper towels. Please note, there is no such thing as a "flushable wipe." The Hopkinton sewer department is seeing a steep rise in the amount of clogs at our sewer pump stations. The sewer pumpers are reporting an increase in residential service calls. The predominant cause has been the increase of wipes, paper towels, and rags to the toilet. Those items need to be disposed of properly in the trash. They do not break down and they bind together to clog the pipes and pumps. We need your IMMEDIATE assistance and ask that you please refrain from flushing any foreign items. Not only does this cause costly repairs, but it could lead to back up of sewerage into your home. We thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter!

The Department of public works is suspending the following services in an abundance of caution, until further notice:

- White Metal Collection days that are typically held on the last Saturday of every month. Residents may contact EL Harvey at 800-321-3002 to have bulk items collected. Residents are allowed one bulk item to be collected per week.
- Weekly operation of the Recycling Center that is typically open every Saturday. Residents that are part of the Town's curbside collection program may place their recyclables at the curb in their recycling carts. Residents that are not part of the curbside collection program are encouraged to speak with your landlords or management companies to find other options. Please note that the Recycling Center will be locked and the dumpsters will be removed.

Library - NEW UPDATE

We are piloting a limited holds pickup service available by appointment to Hopkinton residents only. Information about this service is at bit.ly/HPLholds-pickup20. **Please note that holds placed through the online catalog cannot be honored unless they were already waiting for you on the hold shelf before March 16. You MUST call the library and speak directly to a staff member to request additional items at this time. Please read the information at bit.ly/HPLholds-pickup20 for details.** You can also access ebooks, audiobooks, newspapers, databases and more through the library from home; visit www.hopkintonlibrary.org/ebooks.asp and www.hopkintonlibrary.org/resources.asp. Staff continue to be available to answer questions at 508-497-9777 and hopkintonlibrary@hopkintonma.gov 10 am-5 pm Monday-Friday and 10 am-4 pm Saturday. For more information and other updates, contact us or visit our website (www.hopkintonlibrary.org) or social media (www.facebook.com/hopkintonlibrary, www.twitter.com/HopkintonPLMA).

Staying entertained at home - NEW UPDATE

The Hopkinton Public Library has aggregated the following resources in order to help residents educate and entertain themselves while the library is closed
<https://hopkintonlibrary.org/extra5.asp>

Inspection Services (Building, Plumbing and Wiring) -

The Building Department, in collaboration with the Hopkinton Health Department and Hopkinton Emergency Management Group, has determined for the health and safety of all Residents, Contractors and Inspectors the Building, Plumbing, Electrical and Gas Inspectors will not be performing any interior inspections in occupied dwellings or structures. The Building, Plumbing, Electrical and Gas Inspectors will continue to perform inspections on all new unoccupied dwellings and structures. In the event of a Building emergency please reach out to staff at 508-497-9745.

Hopkinton Senior Center: The Senior Center staff continues to be available if you have questions, concerns, need assistance obtaining food or have any other need while we are closed. Please contact us at 508-497-9730. If you know of a senior in need please reach out to us and we will follow up with them. We have posted information regarding "Senior Hours" at local stores on our website (https://www.hopkintonma.gov/departments/senior_center.php) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Hopkinton-Senior-Center-533752023452626>).