



TOWN OF HOPKINTON
18 Main Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748

COVID-19 Updates & Precautions

March 24, 2020 PM update

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has confirmed that COVID-19 is spreading throughout the Commonwealth. There are presently six positive cases in Hopkinton; as testing increases, more cases may be identified in our Town.

Governor Charlie Baker issued an [emergency order](#) requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of Tuesday, March 24th at noon until Tuesday, April 7th at noon. These businesses are encouraged to continue operations remotely. To that end, essential services provided by the Department of Public Works, Facilities, Health Services, Youth and Family Services, Hopkinton Police Department and Hopkinton Fire Department will continue. The rest of the Town Departments will continue to provide services as in prior weeks, albeit employees will be working remotely.

A list of essential Covid-19 services, can be found here:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-essential-services>

Town Officials and Emergency Management personnel continue to monitor the rapidly evolving COVID-19 public health emergency. As of 12:00 p.m. on 3/24/20, Hopkinton’s Health Department has 6 confirmed COVID-19 cases. We now have cases within the community that cannot be linked to either travel or known contact with a COVID-19 case. We intend to implement further action necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community. We will require that all businesses that are deemed essential, comply with social distancing recommendations. Additionally, we will now require and enforce social distancing guidelines if necessary. The Health Department will begin compliance inspections this week. Families and individuals are being asked to stay home, only have contact with immediate family members and to limit unnecessary trips to stores that will remain open. You should only participate in activities in which the recommended space of 6ft between parties is possible. Our mitigation strategy continues to focus on protecting the most vulnerable population and to preserve our public safety personnel and health care workforce.

All town buildings are closed to the public.

Parks, Playgrounds and Playing Fields ARE CLOSED.

Department of Public Works - NEW UPDATE

The Department of Public Works will not issue any permits for excavation within a public way, pending further notice. Permits may be issued for emergency repairs to existing infrastructure only.

Public Safety:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's order, Hopkinton Fire Department will be suspending all residential and commercial inspections, until further notice. Please visit the attached link for more information.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-20-2020-smoke-alarm-inspections-order/download>

Daycare information:

The EED has permitted one Exempt Emergency Child Care facility to operate in Hopkinton. The facility will provide assistance to the families of public safety, health care and other essential employees, that can not otherwise provide daycare for their children. A directory of Exempt Emergency Child Care facilities in the region is available here -

https://eeclead.force.com/apex/EEC_ChildCareEmergencyProcedure

Health Department:

Please make sure you are obtaining information from trusted sources; such as mass.gov/orgs/governors-press-office, <http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>, <http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>. For information relating to the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19, go to the Mass.gov website or call the Massachusetts 2-1-1 line for information, resources and referrals. Operators are staffing a 24/7 hotline to answer questions and translators are available in multiple languages.

Hopkinton Public Schools:

Food Services Director Michelle Babin is prepared to provide lunches for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Students and families requiring lunches should reach out to Ms. Babin directly at mbabin@hopkinton.k12.ma.us. Or, if you have another trusted adult in the School System, you may also ask that person to connect you to our Food Services Director. The Hopkinton Food Service Department will also be working closely with Project Just Because.

All fields located on Hopkinton Public Schools grounds are closed.

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 continue to post information regarding the ability to access some exercise classes and other programs online, along with other information on our website (https://www.hopkintonma.gov/departments/senior_center.php) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Hopkinton-Senior-Center-533752023452626>).

Senior Shopping Hours - local stores:

Market Basket: Stores open only to those 60 and over from 5:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Roche Bros.: ALL locations will dedicate first hour of business, 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., to customers 60+ as well as the disabled population.

Shaw's/Star Market: Stores will open early Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., for senior citizens and other at-risk members of the community.

Price Chopper: Stores only open to seniors from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Stop & Shop: All locations open 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. daily for customers age 60 and older only.

Target: Reducing store hours and closing stores by 9 p.m. daily. First hour of shopping each Wednesday is reserved for "elderly and those with underlying health concerns."

Library:

In accordance with Governor Baker's emergency order on March 23, the library has stopped offering any services that require or encourage residents to leave their homes. **Our book drop is now closed. Please DO NOT return any library materials at this time!** We cannot be responsible for items left outside of the library, which may be damaged by weather or stolen. Item due dates will be extended until the library reopens, and we will forgive fines that may have accrued due to the pandemic.

Please see the library website for a full update from the Director, posted March 24:

www.hopkintonlibrary.org

Staff are still checking e-mail (hopkintonlibrary@hopkintonma.gov) and will periodically be checking phone messages as well (508-497-9777). We will try to respond to everyone as quickly as possible, but please be aware that it may take us a little longer than usual to answer.

Youth and Family Services:

Please call us if we can be of assistance at 508-497-9781 or email at dalcott@hopkintonma.gov and csouza@hopkintonma.gov

Our facebook page is routinely updated with resources for coping with the crisis. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/hopkintonyouthandfamilyservices/>

HELPERS: If you wish to offer assistance during this crisis, we are forming a database of helpers. If you can email us your information (name, address, phone number, and assistance offered) we can add you to the database and will contact you if we can match you to a need.

See below for more resources to aid in coping with this crisis:

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>

Substance Abuse Support: <https://helplinema.org/> 1.800.327.5050 Helpline for treatment information and support.

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/>