



**OFFICE OF THE
Board of Selectmen
Town of Dunstable
Town Hall, 511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827
(978) 649 4514 ext. 224**



Wednesday, May 27, 2020

To all residents of the Town of Dunstable from the Board of Selectmen:

On March 16, 2020, the Board of Selectmen met in an emergency meeting and declared a local state of emergency in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, and Emergency Management Team continue to meet on a weekly basis and continue to monitor legislative, regulatory, and health developments that affect the operation of Town government. Public safety and public works continue to operate and Town Hall staff continue to work between alternating their presence in Town Hall and working remotely. Although Town Hall is not open to the public, you can reach Town Hall staff by phone, email, and if needed can make an appointment to meet with them outside. At the earliest, we do not envision Town Hall reopening to the public until late Phase 2 or early Phase 3 of Governor Baker's reopening plan.

Contact information for each department can be found on the town website at www.dunstable-ma.gov. We appreciate your patience during this time.

The Board of Selectmen has voted to postpone the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Election. The Annual Town Election has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at the Dunstable Public Library from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Although you will be able to vote in person at that time, voting by absentee ballot is strongly encouraged as the safest way to cast your vote.

Annual Town Meeting has not yet been rescheduled due to unknown factors associated with the budget, a potential loss of state aide revenues, and to allow more time to pass to make a Town Meeting gathering safer. In the meantime, the Selectmen will approve monthly budgets for Town departments for the first quarter of the fiscal year that are roughly limited to 1/12th of the amount of this year's budget per month. Assuming we have more information by early July, we schedule an Annual Town Meeting for later in the summer.

Our public health nurses are on the front line of this situation as they monitor the State's communicable disease surveillance system – MAVEN for our community. There were as many as 11 cases in Dunstable who have laboratory confirmed positive tests for COVID-19 as of May 27, 2020. Please see the accompanying notice from the Board of Health regarding confirmed positive test(s).

Residents are reminded of the following preventative measures recommended by the State:

Practice social distancing - There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Another way to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person:

1. Between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6')
2. Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person sneezes or coughs.

To prevent transmission this social distancing includes the following actions:

- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer
- Wear a mask in public when you cannot maintain social distance (maintain 6 feet apart)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Stay at home if you are sick
- Keep children off public playgrounds and away from congregating with other groups of children

This advice is especially true for older adults and those who have health issues are urged to avoid large crowds and events. Individuals who live in households with vulnerable people, like elderly parents, should avoid crowds.

Please take notice: our park land is open for solo exercise only. Playgrounds are closed. Team sports and gatherings on public land are prohibited. Without your cooperation the parks will be closed!

Additional information regarding closures or other changes will be released as it becomes available.

For more information about COVID -19 from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, please click here: <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19> and the Centers for Disease Control, please click here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>