



**OFFICE OF THE
Board of Selectmen
Town of Dunstable
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Dunstable, MA 01827
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Monday, May 18, 2020

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

Given the unfolding situation with COVID-19, the Board of Selectmen met in an emergency meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 and declared a local state of emergency.

The Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, and Emergency Management Team continue to meet on a weekly basis, remotely, to continue to respond to the COVID-19 situation and guidance issued by the Governor and public health agencies. They are responding using the most recent and frequently updated guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Board of Health (BOH). Meeting agendas will continue to be posted on the town website. This notice is updated and is being provided based on the latest information.

Town Hall remains closed, but staff continue to work remotely. Information on re-opening will be provided as events develop. Contact information for each department can be found on the town website at www.dunstable-ma.gov. We appreciate your patience during this time. We are awaiting guidance from our state and federal agencies about whether this will be extended or when we can reopen.

The Board of Selectmen has voted to postpone the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election. At this time, the Annual Town Election has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Annual Town Meeting has not been rescheduled as of yet. In these difficult times, the Town must wait a period to determine how reductions in State Aid and other revenues will be affected before a new Town budget can be put forward. While there has been discussion about an override to support school, police, and highway services, the Board of Selectmen has voted not to pursue an override as part of the Annual Town Election in recognition of the difficult economic circumstances. We will continue to work with our Advisory Board, municipal departments, and School District to develop a new budget.

Fourth quarter taxes remain due on May 1, 2020. However, in light of the economic circumstances, the Board of Selectmen has voted to waive penalties and interest on late tax payments through June 1, 2020.

Dunstable Fire, Police, and Highway Departments also remain operational and prepared to address issues that may arise regarding the COVID-19 threat. The Dunstable Police Department is available to conduct welfare checks and address imminent needs for local residents, please contact them at 978-649-7445 if needed.

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 are 10 cases in town who have laboratory confirmed positive tests for COVID-19 as of May 17, 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 that they should take:

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 this social distancing includes the following actions:

- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer
- 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 with health issues are urged to avoid large crowds and events. Individuals who live in households with vulnerable people, like elderly parents, should also consider avoiding 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>