



TOWN OF SHARON

90 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS 02067

TOWN OF SHARON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE APRIL 1, 2020

Yesterday afternoon, the Governor extended his emergency order requiring all business and organizations that do not provide essential services to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers, and the public until Monday, May 4. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) also issued a stay-at-home advisory outlining self-isolation and social distancing protocols. Residents are advised to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary activities.

To read the full list of essential services: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services>

To read the March 23, 2020 Revised Emergency Order: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-23-2020-essential-services-and-revised-gatherings-order>

To read the copy of the Guidance of Assemblages: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-23-2020-essential-services-and-revised-gatherings-order>

In light of the ever-evolving situation here in the Commonwealth, all town buildings remain closed to the public until Monday, May 4 (pending any further announcements by the Governor); town departments will continue to work on a reduced schedule to meet the essential needs of the community. The schedule for offices to be staffed is: Monday – Thursday from 9:30am – 3:00pm. Offices will not be staffed on Fridays.

All town activities/programs remain cancelled, as well. This decision is being made out of an abundance of caution to attempt to limit in-person contact while also continuing to provide basic services to residents and business owners. The Town has also cancelled non-essential government meetings.

While we certainly understand this situation is not ideal, we are proceeding with the well-being of our citizens and staff in mind. We encourage everyone to closely follow information from the Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH), Sharon Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and exercise good judgement and caution.

We are asking that the public continue to use our on-line resources for on-line payment, <https://www.townofsharon.net/home/pages/online-payments>, and contact us via email and telephone with any questions that you may have for us. Residents are encouraged to use the on-line services, <https://www.townofsharon.net>, and the drop box in the vestibule of Town Hall for bill payment. Again, other business will be conducted by phone or email.

Please see the telephone contact numbers below for frequently visited departments:

Assessors	781-784-1500 x1207
Conservation	781-784-1511
Council on Aging & Social Services	781-784-8000
Department of Public Works (including Building & Water)	781-784-1525
Fire Department (business line)	781-784-1522
Health Department	781-784-1500 x1206
Library	781-784-1578

Police Department (business line)	781-784-1587
Recreation Department	781-784-1530
Town Administrator/Select Board	781-784-1500 x1208
Town Clerk	781-784-1500 x1201
Treasurer/Tax Collector	781-784-1500 x1200
Veterans Services	781-784-1500 x1180

Assessor's Office

- The Assessors' Office will continue to process auto excise abatements. Documentation may be sent via USPS or emailed to AOFFICE@townofsharon.org.
- Call the office or email with any questions regarding personal exemptions.
- Real & Personal Property abatement requests will continue to be processed within the required 3 month timeframe.

Collector's Office

- The Town's online payment systems allows residents to pay real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes online, in addition to paying water bills.
<https://www.townofsharon.net/home/pages/online-payments>
- If unable to access a computer for online payments City Hall Systems is available to process payments over the phone. Please call 508-381-5455. There is no fee for a payment made by check; however there is a 2.95% fee for all payments using a credit card.
- The payment drop box continues to be available 24/7 in the vestibule of Town Hall, or mail in your payment.

Council on Aging/Adult Center

- Staff will be available to handle phone calls, and transportation for medical appointments and shopping is still available by appointment; please call as you normally do. All other programs remain cancelled.

Department of Public Works/Building/Water

- The DPW will continue to provide building, electrical and plumbing inspections by appointment only 781-784-1525 ext. 2310.
- The Water Department will continue to perform reads for passing in most instance by appointment only. Call 781-784-1525 ext. 2315 to determine if a photo of the meter face is acceptable.
- Pothole, road/sidewalk damage and tree damage can be reported via the Town website home page "Report a Concern" tab: <https://www.townofsharon.net/department-of-public-works/pages/report-a-concern-through-commonwealth-connect>
- Trash and recycling questions should be directed to 781-784-1525 ext. 2314.
- Access to the DPW dumpsters is suspended.

Fire/Building Inspections

- Time-sensitive fire/building inspections will be completed, but please call to schedule an appointment.

Police Department

- Until further notice, we are asking citizens to avoid coming into the lobby of the police department, unless it is a case of an emergency.
- We will be temporarily allowing our officers to take reports over the phone for any issues or incidents that we feel would not require a visit to your home. Some examples could be neighbor disputes/civil matters, calls for advice, credit card/identity theft, and animal matters that are not a threat to public safety.
- No citizen fingerprints will be taken at the station until further notice.
- We are not accepting any food items for police until further notice.

- If you have a situation that can be resolved over the phone by speaking with a police officer, please call our business line at 781-784-1587. Please continue to use 911 for all emergencies and medical calls.

Public Library

- All library services are suspended, including delivery and pick-up of materials.
- Visit www.sharonpubliclibrary.org for Old Colony Library Network's latest updates.
- Online resources and remote access through Overdrive/Libby, hoopla digital, RBdigital and The New York Times remain available.
- Fines will not be charged on overdue materials.
- The book drop is open and emptied daily. You may return items but please do not put donations in the book drop.
- If you have any questions about remote access; how to use Overdrive, Libby, or other e-services; or need assistance troubleshooting, please check our Help & Support page (<https://sharonpubliclibrary.org/ebookshelp.asp>) or email us at sharonlibraryma@gmail.com.

Recreation Department & Recreation Facilities

- All recreation programming will be cancelled until further notice.
- Registration for Programs: Registration for all programs will be temporarily suspended until further notice. We will re-open registration for spring/summer programs as soon as we are able to do so. We will address the impacts on each program individually as the timeline progresses.
- Town Fields & Parks: In an effort to promote social distancing under Governor Baker's stay-at-home advisory, all town fields and parks will be closed to the public. This includes all playgrounds, basketball courts, and tennis courts throughout town. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this manner in effort to safely social distance throughout the community.
- Recreation office: As part of the overall closure of the Sharon Community Center to the public, the Recreation office will not be physically open to the public. Recreation Department staff will be able to answer e-mails and voicemails.
- Field Permitting: All field permitting has been temporarily suspended until further notice.

Town Clerk's Office

- You can register to vote, update your address and/or party, update your name or check registration information by visiting the Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration System: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.
- Town census forms should either be mailed or placed in the drop box in the vestibule at Town Hall.
- The Town's online payment systems allows residents to renew dog licenses: <https://www.townofsharon.net/home/pages/online-payments>
- For all other essential transactions, such as marriage licenses, please call the Town Clerk's Office. Notary Public services will not be performed during this time.

Essential Government Meetings

- Only essential meetings are to take place, and will be done so remotely, in keeping with Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 revised order limiting gatherings to 10 or less persons.
- Agendas will continue to be physically posted in the vestibule at Town Hall and on the Town's website. However, please keep in mind that agendas must be posted at least 48 hours in advance; please factor in time to get a URL assigned for the remote meeting from the Town Administrator's Office as well as to get the agenda to the Town Clerk's Office during their reduced hours to assure compliance with notice requirements.
- Instructions will be included on each agenda so that the public may observe and participate in these meetings, as if they were in the audience.

Miscellaneous

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued guidance on March 15, 2020 that authorizes licensed pharmacies to create and sell hand sanitizer over the counter. Please contact your local pharmacy to inquire if they have availability.
- For residents who need additional support during this COVID-19 crisis, use these links to request assistance:
 - Food pantry requests - <https://sharonma.seamlessdocs.com/f/FoodPantryRequests>
 - Assistance needed - <https://sharonma.seamlessdocs.com/f/AssistanceNeeded>
 - For those who cannot complete the form, please call the Fire Department at 781-784-1522 or email jwright@townofsharon.org.
- The food pantry at the First Congregational Church (29 North Main Street) is open Monday – Friday from 11:00am – 2:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am – 12:00pm. They are need of non-perishable items, including but not limited to cereal, boxed milk, tomato sauce, snacks for children, baking goods (i.e. flour, sugar, etc.) as well as personal care items.
- A COVID-19 text alert system has been established for immediate updates from the state. Please text COVIDMA to 888-777 to subscribe. You can also call the informational and referral state hotline at 2-1-1.
- The Registry of Motor Vehicles provided an update contact center phone number: 857-368-8000. Please note that the RMV currently has a no walk-in policy, which took effect on March 27.
- MBTA reduced schedule information: <https://www.mbta.com/covid19>
- Information for those unemployed: <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-unemployment-and-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Department of Unemployment Assistance Online Portal: <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/>
- Guidance and resources for small businesses: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

As a reminder:

- Take every day precautionary actions to avoid the spread of respiratory viruses like the flu and COVID-19, 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. People who are sick should stay home and not go into crowded public places or visit people in hospitals.
- Anyone who is experiencing a fever and/or respiratory illness and is concerned they have either come into contact with the virus or traveled to an affected country within the last 14 days is advised to contact their 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. If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- 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:

State's COVID-19 website – <http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>

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://www.211info.org/corona-virus>

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

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency - <https://www.mass.gov/mema>

The Town continues to monitor this situation very closely and will provide further updates on the town's website and various social media platforms as new information becomes available:

Town Website – <https://www.townofsharon.net/>

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

Town Twitter – <https://twitter.com/townofsharonma>

For school news and updates:

School Website – <https://www.sharon.k12.ma.us/>

School Twitter – <https://twitter.com/SharonSchools>

Thank you for your continued patience and efforts as we navigate this ever-changing situation.