



TOWN OF SHARON

90 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS 02067

TOWN OF SHARON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE **MARCH 11, 2020**

As you are all aware, COVID-19 is a new respiratory disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. We want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update as to what town officials have been working on in order to ensure we are prepared to address any situations that may arise here in Sharon.

The Health Department continues to work closely with town and school staff as well as key community groups. As of yesterday, March 10, 2020, there remains one confirmed case in Massachusetts and 91 presumptive positive cases awaiting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) testing. The Health Department is in 24/7 contact with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

On March 9, 2020, Public Health Nurse Sheila Miller and Fire Chief Jim Wright met with School Superintendent Dr. Victoria Greer and other school officials to discuss the presumptive case and DPH's recommendations. As this time, the presumptive case and the close contacts are self-quarantining and being monitored by the Health Department. Ms. Miller and Chief Wright were assured by school officials that there was increased cleaning and sanitation of all school buildings over the past weekend. They also met with staff from the Recreation Department and the Council on Aging to answer any questions and provide technical support.

Beginning this week and continuing weekly for the next several weeks, all town buildings will be sanitized by an outside company with particular attention to touch points and high contact surfaces. Areas will continue to be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis. First responders are also taking extra precautions as they interact with the public, including cleaning the ambulances and other equipment.

All departments are working on their Continuity of Operations Plans (COP) if the Town is required to close one or multiple buildings for an extended period of time. As of this writing, all boards and committees will continue to meet as scheduled.

Yesterday, March 10, 2020, Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth. By doing so, this will facilitate and expedite the use of Commonwealth resources and deployment of federal and interstate resources to protect persons from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19.

Please take note of the following:

- Take everyday 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 away from a sink), 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 things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Get the flu vaccine.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Think about your own personal preparedness for you and your family (<https://www.mass.gov/know-plan-prepare>).

The Health Department remains the primary point of contact, whose work is informed by DPH and the CDC. As you might expect, this is a constantly evolving situation and we will all continue to take our lead from their direction and guidance. For the most up-to-date information, please visit their websites:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – <http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Town continues to monitor this situation very closely and will be taking any new information day by day. Further updates will be provided on the town's website and various social media platforms as they become available:

Website – <https://www.townofsharon.net/>
Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/TownofSharonMA/>
Twitter – <https://twitter.com/townofsharonma>

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