



TOWN OF IPSWICH

25 Green Street
IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938

March 12, 2020

Residents of Ipswich:

The Town of Ipswich continues to diligently monitoring COVID-19, the new respiratory virus that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December of 2019. As of March 11, 2020, there has been six confirmed and eighty-nine presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, and none in the Town of Ipswich.

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the town of Ipswich has decided to cancel all nonessential meetings and events under our control until further notice, effective March 13, 2020. This decision includes programming by the Library, Council On Aging and Recreation. If you have questions, please contact the director of the department.

The Superintendent of Schools will provide an update on the schools. You can view his communications at www.ipsk12.net.

Higher risk individuals (including older adults, anyone with underlying health conditions or weakened immune system, and pregnant women) should avoid large gatherings.

The town is recommending that business and organizers follow the recommendations of MA Department of Public Health and postpone or cancel non-essential large events and gatherings. If events cannot be cancelled, make adjustments to keep people safe and healthy.

- People who are sick should not attend.
 - Try to find ways to give people more physical space so that they aren't in close contact as much as possible. (6 feet is recommended.)
 - Discourage touching including shaking hands, hugging, etc.
 - Do not share food, drinks, or utensils at any gatherings.
 - Develop flexible refund policies for participants who become ill
- During an essential event:
 - message assertively about COVID-19
 - promote practices that stop the spread of germs
 - ensure adequate access to sinks with soap, hand sanitizer and tissue;
 - plan for staff absences;
 - identify a space that can be used to isolate staff or participants who become ill at the event.

Business and Employers can view guidance from CDC's Interim Guidance: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html

We are asking that all individuals follow MDPH and the CDC recommendations and take specific actions to reduce the risk to individuals, families and coworkers, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Returning travelers from Level 3 countries (currently China, South Korea, Iran, and Italy) are asked to self-quarantine ("stay home") for 14 days since the date of entry to the United States and self-monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Returning travelers from Level 2 countries (currently Japan) are asked to limit contact with others and self-monitor for symptoms.
- If someone in your household has been quarantined at home, all close contacts - including household members, intimate partners, and caregivers - should monitor their own health and call their healthcare provider if they develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath).
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

Please obtain information only from responsible sources (MPDH, CDC) and avoid rumors on social media.

- **MDPH COVID-19 web site at www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.**
- **Additional guidance CDC at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.**

We appreciate your continued cooperation with us in our COVID-19 response.

Sincerely,

Anthony Marino, Town Manager

Colleen E. Fermon, Director of Public Health

Dr. Brian J. Blake, Superintendent of Schools

Jon Hubbard, Emergency Management Director

Paul Nikas, Police Chief

Andrew Theriault, Fire Chief

Jeffrey French, Deputy Fire Chief