

TOWN OF LUNENBURG MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER



Heather R. Lemieux
Town Manager

COVID-19 Update
July 7, 2020

UPDATES FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Here are a number of updates specific to Lunenburg that will also be posted on the town website, town Facebook page, the “townwide” listserv, sent to the Lunenburg Ledger and to Public Access:

COVID-19 in Lunenburg and Board of Health Notices:

The Board of Health issued their weekly update dated July 5th and as of July 3rd, there are 70 confirmed positive cases in Lunenburg and one death.

The COVID-19 Information Center page can be found [here](#).

Re-opening of the Town Beach:

The Parks Commission met on July 2nd and voted to open the Town Beach on to the public on Monday, July 13th with a closing date of Sunday, September 13th. Upon hiring of staff the Recreation Director will work with staff to get them trained and ready for the planned opening on July 13th.

Town Facilities and Town/School Playgrounds, School Fields,:

Town facilities are currently open to the public by appointment only and residents can contact the department they wish to set up an appointment with by contacting them through contact information on the town website.

The town and school playgrounds are open, the town and school basketball courts are open, the school tennis courts are open, the MS/HS track and turf field is open, and all town fields were never closed. Organized groups that wish to use town fields need to go through the Recreation Director Kayla Wright at kwright@lunenburgonline.com for scheduling field time.

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Council on Aging:

The Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers are back as of July 6th and are still delivered twice per week. The COA Director and staff are assisting with bringing the meals out to drivers from the Eagle House. The Drive Through events have been going very well. Starting on July 20th there will be a limited number of indoor programs of no more than 10 people. Program attendees temperatures will be taken, social distancing protocols will remain in place, and the Director has acquired new vinyl chairs that have been antibacterial treated. Attendees will be asked to leave directly after events and all chairs will be sanitized after use. On July 20th at 1:30 p.m. there will be a monthly grief support group meeting, on July 21st at 1 p.m. there will be a “Stronger Seniors” Chair Exercise video, and on July 22nd at 1 p.m. there will be an indoor movie.

Library:

Curbside pick-up for books began on June 15th and is going well. Staff is back in the building and any returned books are quarantined for at least 3 days. Beginning June 2nd, all borrowed items that have been checked out and picked up through the curbside pick-up process, reflect their actual due dates. All digital materials are still available and the Library WiFi can be accessed through their parking lot. The Summer Reading program began June 28th through July 25th and can be found at lunenburglibrary.org. All staff can still be reached by phone or email between 9-5 Monday to Thursday, and 9-2 on Saturdays.

Tax Payments:

Tax payments are now also being accepted in the black box on the right side of the entrance outside of Town Hall. Tax payments can also still be mailed to the town’s lockbox or can be paid online. The online bill payment link is <https://www.lunenburgma.gov/departments/resident-services/online-services> and the lockbox address is:

Town of Lunenburg
Department 1260
P.O. Box 986500
Boston, MA 02298-6500

For any questions, please contact the Treasurer/Collector Myleen Mallari at (978) 582-4130 x 135 or mmallari@lunenburgonline.com.

UPDATES RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNEMENT:

The Baker-Polito Administration continues to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. A comprehensive list of emergency orders and guidance is available at mass.gov/covid19 (click [here](#)).

COVID-19 in Massachusetts (as of 7/6/20):

As of July 6th there are 104,659 COVID-19 cases and 7,983 deaths 893,939 patients have been tested to date by the MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

This information is now posted on the Department of Public Health COVID-19 website, with a breakdown of coronavirus cases by city and town. The page can be accessed by going to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-cases-by-city/town->. The Department of Public Health has created a dashboard as well with comprehensive, detailed COVID-19 data, including trend data, case rates, testing, and breakdowns by age, sex, race, ethnicity and geography. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-dashboard->

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Transition to Third Phase of Four-Phase Approach

On July 2, 2020 the Baker-Polito Administration announced that Phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan would begin Monday, July 6th and updates on gatherings would go into effect on July 6th.

Step One of Phase III:

On May 18, the administration released a four-phased plan to reopen the economy based on public health data, spending at least three weeks in each phase. Key public health data, such as new cases and hospitalizations, have been closely monitored and have seen a decline allowing for Phase III to begin on July 6th.

Since mid-April, the 7-day average for the positive COVID-19 test rate is down 94 percent, the 3-day average of hospitalized patients is down 83 percent and the number of hospitals in surge is down 95 percent. More than 1,000,000 total COVID-19 tests have been administered, and testing continues throughout the state.

The following businesses will be eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III, subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations:

- Movie theaters and outdoor performance venues;
- Museums, cultural and historical sites;
- Fitness centers and health clubs;
- Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact;
- Professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators

Full guidance and list of businesses eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III can be found at www.mass.gov/reopening. Businesses and sectors set to begin opening in Phase III are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards.

Revised Gatherings Order:

Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space.

Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible. This revised order does not supersede previously issued sector guidance, and is effective beginning Monday, July 6.

Helpful Links:

- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Jobs Available to Assist Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Get Involved: Community Contact Tracing Collaborative](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](#)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [MBTA.com/covid19](#)

- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)
- [Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance](#)

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results. Call 2-1-1 with questions. Text the keyword **COVIDMA to 888-777** to receive notifications to your phone. To receive these notifications in Spanish, text **COVIDMAESP to 888- 777**
- Take care of your emotional health:
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the “CALL2TALK” option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.