City of Gloucester COVID-19 Response Update
April 23, 2020

The City of Gloucester continues to advance measures to limit person to person contact to help slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). As the COVID-19 outbreak surges in Massachusetts it is vital that everyone follow the guidelines and recommendations from the City, the CDC and the DPH.

The following are timely updates, announcements, and reminders from the City.

New Updates & Information

- **GOVERNOR’S PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT HOSPITALS:** Gov. Charlie Baker and officials at some of the state’s top teaching hospitals are urging anyone experiencing symptoms of a heart attack or stroke, like chest pains or slurred speech, or other acute illness or injury not wait too long before heading to a nearby emergency room. To help spread that message, Doctors from Massachusetts hospitals combined to release a series of public service announcements which began airing today urging people suffering from serious conditions to not to wait for treatment because of coronavirus fears.

- **SCHOOLS AND NON-EMERGENCY CHILDCARE CLOSURES EXTENDED:** The closure of all public and private schools in Massachusetts has been extended through the end of the school year. Remote learning efforts will continue through the duration of the school year. The closure of all non-emergency child care programs has been extended until June 29, 2020. For more information on these announcements, child care program resources and remote learning resources please click [here](#).

- **CITY DEADLINE EXTENSIONS:**
  - **Dog licenses:** The deadline to renew or register for a dog license has been extended from April 30, 2020 to May 29, 2020. No penalties will be charged until June 1, 2020. For online registration, registration by mail, or fee information please click [here](#).
• **Property Tax:** The due date for property tax payments has been extended from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. This new due date will also apply for applications for exemption and deferral, which were previously due April 1.

• **CITY LAUNCHED REDESIGNED WEBSITE:** The City’s redesigned website, [www.gloucester-ma.gov](http://www.gloucester-ma.gov), was launched last week. The digital front door for the City of Gloucester features significant changes to the visual design and content organization of the City’s website. The new site showcases a cleaner and mobile friendly design and an upgraded and more prominent search function.
  
  o Sign up for emergency alerts [here](#).
  
  o To review your current subscription selections and/or sign up for City of Gloucester website notifications click [here](#).

• **UNEMPLOYMENT:** If you or someone you know has lost their job due to COVID-19 sign up for a virtual town hall on unemployment benefits. For additional information or to register for an upcoming meeting please click [here](#).
  
  o Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits can now apply online for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The new federal PUA program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits who are unable to work because of a COVID-19-related reason but are not eligible for regular or extended unemployment benefits. This includes self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and those with limited work history. Applicants can learn more and apply at [www.mass.gov/pua](http://www.mass.gov/pua).

• **COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES:** In case you missed it please watch these important and informative videos.
  
  o [A 1623 Studios Community Update – 4/23/2020](#) with Public Health Director Karin Carroll about what the “surge” looks like in Gloucester.
  
  
  o [A 1623 Studios Community Update – 4/21/2020](#) with Chief Administrative Officer Jim Destino about managing the City in a pandemic.
  
  o [A 1623 Studios Community Update – 4/21/2020](#) with Superintendent Richard Safier about the extension of school closures and remote learning.

• **CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION APRIL 27- MAY 1:** The first spring curbside collection of yard waste (leaves and clippings) will be April 27 – May 1. Place leaves and grass clippings in paper leaf bags or loose in marked barrels. Please NO plastic bags.
Leaf bags and barrels should be on the curb by 7 a.m. Yard waste is collected first and after the trucks are dumped regular trash and recycling routes will begin.

- **COMPOST FACILITY**: All City buildings remain closed to the public. Therefore, the Compost Facility at Dogtown will be closed Saturday, April 25, 2020.

- **WESTERN AVENUE PAVING APRIL 27 – MAY 2**: Beginning Monday, April 27, 2020 thru Saturday, May 2, 2020, National Grid will be repaving Western Avenue from Blynman Bridge to Stillington Avenue. Crews will be working from 7am - 4pm daily. This project is weather dependent. Expect delays.

**Status of Cases**

For a list of COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, which is updated every evening, click [here](#). This enhanced, comprehensive and detailed COVID-19 data report, now includes daily and cumulative confirmed cases; cases by hospital, county, and age/sex/ethnicity; testing by date; deaths; hospital capacity; nursing home data; and PPE distribution.

As the surge continues in Massachusetts, and as testing becomes more widespread in our city, we anticipate positive cases will rise over the next several days. As of today, there have been a total of 120 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City of Gloucester: seven deceased, four are currently hospitalized, 53 are currently in isolation, and 56 have recovered.

The Gloucester Health Department is actively working towards identifying and monitoring those individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as anyone with whom they have recently come into contact.

**Health Guidance and Recommendations**

According to the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), symptoms of the virus appear within 2-14 days of exposure. The DPH reports that symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath and pneumonia in severe cases.

If you display symptoms or suspect that you may have come into contact with a person who may be infected, please contact your primary care provider immediately.
Important Local, State & Federal Information and Updates

Please visit the City of Gloucester’s COVID-19 information page here.