



# TOWN OF BOURNE

## Town Administrator

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### COVID-19 Weekly Update issued April 10, 2020

As we continue to deal with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are providing this weekly update on Town actions to date and share information regarding current operations.

1. Town buildings remain closed to the public until at least May 4, 2020. Public Safety buildings remain open for emergencies and other limited services, however, please call first for the latest information if you have non-emergency business. All town offices remained staffed to answer your questions or address your concerns. Staff can be reached by phone and email daily. Please use the Town Website for department contact information.
  - a. Thank you to those who are using on-line services for payment of bills and/or the new drop box located at the top of the handicap ramp at the Town Hall's back entrance. If using the drop box, please make sure checks and other paperwork is in an envelope so that it doesn't get separated.
  - b. **(Update)** Public Meetings have started again this week using Zoom meeting as the primary method, but Bourne TV will be broadcasting, streaming and recording many of these as well. Please visit the Town Calendar for the latest meeting information and how the public will have access to the meeting in accordance with the modifications.
  
2. The Bourne Board of Selectman voted to declare a "State of Local Emergency" on March 17, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That emergency order remains in effect.
  - a. **(Update)** As of March 26, 2019 all Town playgrounds, basketball courts and tennis courts have been closed until further notice. Some vandalism has occurred with the cutting of chains and locks or destroying other methods to prevent access or use. A more stringent response may be necessary if this continues.
  - b. **(Update)** At this time, parks, walking paths and beach access remain open, however, if residents or other users do not abide by social distancing recommendations, refrain from depositing gloves, masks or bags used to collect dog droppings on the ground, loss of use of these areas may result. We want people who desire to exercise, get fresh air, etc., to relieve stress and remain healthy to be able to do so, but we ask that everyone be vigilant in abiding by Public Health directives and use carry in/carry out practices if no trash receptacles are available.
  - c. Per the order of Governor Baker, all Public Schools and non-emergency daycare and early childhood education centers will remain closed until at least May 4, 2020.
  - d. As part of that order, the Governor has issued a statewide "Stay at Home Advisory" through May 4, 2020.
  - e. In addition, all non-essential businesses were ordered closed until noon on May 4, 2020 as well. Please consult <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services> for details and how to apply for an exemption. This guidance was updated March 31, 2020 with additional information related to what is essential and what is not.

- f. The state has implemented a text alert system to keep citizens of the Commonwealth informed of the latest information. All Bourne residents are urged to sign up for these text alerts by texting Covid19MA to 888-777.
  - g. **(New)** On April 9, 2020, Governor Baker issued additional guidance for grocery store operations. One of the main changes was to limit the number of employees and shoppers to 40% of the stores permitted occupancy load at any one time. Please plan accordingly.
3. Town Meeting/Town Elections: **(Update)** On March 17, 2020, the Bourne Board of Selectman voted to delay the issuance of the Annual and Special Town Meeting warrants until such time as the emergency situation no longer exists.
  - a. The Board of Selectman further discussed the issue of the Town Meeting on April 7, 2020. The Board reached a consensus that the earliest date for the ATM/STM would be June 29/30 2020. Therefore, June 29<sup>th</sup> is now our planning date and we will begin to finish any remaining actions leading up to a town meeting on these dates with a date of June 2, 2020 for the Board to approve, sign, issue and post the warrant calling the Town Meeting (conditions permitting).
  - b. The Board of Selectman at their April 2, 2020 meeting voted unanimously to move the Town's Annual Election to Tuesday June 23, 2020. The Town Clerk's office will be putting out information and guidance related to important voter registration dates associated with the change as well additional options for voters.
4. Department of Public Works: We are continuing curbside service, however, recycling has gone to bi-weekly. Ensure that all household trash is bagged and tied before putting into the receptacle for pickup. It may be left behind if it is not properly bagged. This is for the health and safety of our employees. For those residents and businesses that are on town sewer, PLEASE do not flush wipes down toilets. These will cause damage to our grinder pumps.
5. ISWM (Landfill) – ISWM remains operational. Please consult the ISWM website or call if you have questions on which parts of the landfill are still operating.
6. Public Safety – A shipment of Personal Protective Equipment from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) arrived last weekend and we continue to source these vital items for our first responders.
7. Please help local businesses, particularly those providing food etc. for pickup, curbside or delivery and our grocery/convenience stores and pharmacies. They are there for us and making sure we have access to essential items. There are many acts of kindness going on in our community to make sure our families, seniors or anyone who might have trouble securing essentials have what they need. Thank you to everyone who has assisted someone in need. For a list of restaurants providing meals please visit <https://conta.cc/2Ug7Zet> .
8. New guidance and information has been released by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) regarding closures of a number of parking lots at various locations including Scusset Beach in Bourne. Please visit the following site for more information: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-state-parks-covid-19-update>

9. Governor Baker also announced a partnership with Bouy Health and a program for MA residents to use and assist them with health screening related to COVID-19. The website to use is [www.buoyhealth.com](http://www.buoyhealth.com).
10. Many new programs are now coming on line to help businesses and employees cope with the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Cape Cod Canal Chamber of Commerce is doing a great job in keeping businesses and others informed with the latest information. Please visit them at <https://www.capecodcanalchamber.org/> to find great information and helpful links for business owners and employees. Or visit <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources#section-header-4>
11. (New) The Cape and Islands Major Crisis Relief Fund was recently started to help those in our community that may need help with a mortgage payment, car payment, medical bills or other basic needs during this pandemic crisis. You can find more information at [www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org](http://www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org)
12. (New) As we have all heard through various sources, the next few weeks are critical in our fight to push back on the spread of COVID-19 in what has been termed a surge. All the Town Administrators and Managers participated in a conference call with Cape Cod Healthcare this afternoon. They are focused on being ready and report that they are in excellent shape to meet this potential surge of patients if the need arises. In order to win this fight, we all need to be extra vigilant in adhering to good hygiene and to stay home unless absolutely necessary to go out in public. If you do, protect yourself and others appropriately through social distancing and wearing a mask.
13. We continue to focus on providing essential government functions to our residents and businesses daily. We understand that there may be some inconvenience and slight delays in processing certain types of business with town government, but it is essential that we take whatever steps we can to keep our town staff healthy and working for you. In that regard, we continue to assess our operations daily to ensure the safety of our residents, businesses and employees. All departments continue to update their individual website and Facebook pages with the latest information related to their operations and available services. Below are some helpful sites for local, county and state information.
  - a. Police Department - <http://www.bournepolice.com/>
  - b. Fire Department- <http://bournefire.com>
  - c. ISWM - <https://www.townofbourne.com/integrated-solid-waste-management>
  - d. DPW- <https://www.townofbourne.com/public-works>
  - e. Library- <http://www.bournelibrary.org>
  - f. Council on Aging - <https://www.townofbourne.com/council-on-aging>
  - g. Recreation Department- <https://www.bournerec.com/info/default.aspx>
  - h. Health Department - <https://www.townofbourne.com/health>
  - i. Commonwealth – [www.mass.gov/covid19](http://www.mass.gov/covid19)
  - j. Barnstable County – [www.barnstablecounty.org](http://www.barnstablecounty.org)
  - k. Major Crisis Relief Fund – [www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org](http://www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org)