



TOWN OF BOURNE

Town Administrator

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COVID-19 Weekly Update issued April 3, 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 current operations.

1. Town buildings remain closed to the public. 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. At this time, we plan to remain in this status at least through May 4, 2020 based on Governor Baker's most recent guidance.
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. As of March 26, 2019 all Town playgrounds, basketball courts and tennis courts have been closed until further notice.
 - b. 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.
 - c. As part of that order, the Governor has issued a statewide Stay at Home Advisory through noon on May 4, 2020.
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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.
3. Town Meeting/Town Elections: 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. This will push back the May 4, 2020 Annual and Special Town Meetings to a date, time and place to be determined once it is safe to conduct Town Meeting. The Board will begin discussions related to Town Meeting at their April 7, 2020 meeting.
 - a. The Governor has signed the municipal bill H4598 on April 3, 2020 to provide cities and towns the necessary flexibility in dealing with a variety of issues due to the current pandemic. Find the bill at <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4598.pdf>

- b. The Board of Selectman as 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. Public Meetings: ALL Board and Committee Chairs were asked to suspend ALL public meetings until the week of April 6, 2020 except those required for governmental necessity. The Board of Selectman held their first virtual meeting on April 2, 2020 using the Zoom videoconference software as well as having Bourne TV broadcast the meeting on cable and through live stream. Guidance for other boards and committees is forthcoming.
5. Department of Public Works: We are continuing curbside service, however, recycling as 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.
 - a. 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.
6. 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.
7. Public Safety – As I am sure most of you have read or heard about the shortage of Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders and health care workers, if anyone would like to donate any appropriate PPE to our first responders, please contact the Fire and/or Police Department. Thank you to all that have donated, it is truly appreciated. We are also expecting a shipment through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) tomorrow which will be significant help to ensure the health and safety of our first responders.
8. Please help keep 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>.
9. 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>
10. 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.
11. 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>

12. The Chamber will be hosting a Webinar on the Paycheck Protection Program on April 7, 2020 at 2PM, visit the Chamber website using the link above for more details.
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.
 - a. All departments continue to update their individual website and Facebook pages with the latest information related to their operations and available services.
 - i. Police Department - <http://www.bournepolice.com/>
 - ii. Fire Department- <http://bournefire.com>
 - iii. ISWM (Land Fill)- <https://www.townofbourne.com/integrated-solid-waste-management>
 - iv. DPW- <https://www.townofbourne.com/public-works>
 - v. Library- <http://www.bournelibrary.org>
 - vi. Council on Aging - <https://www.townofbourne.com/council-on-aging>
 - vii. Recreation Department- <https://www.bournerec.com/info/default.aspx>
 - viii. Health Department - <https://www.townofbourne.com/health>
 - ix. Commonwealth – www.mass.gov/covid19