



TOWN OF BOURNE

Town Administrator

24 Perry Avenue – Room 101
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
www.townofbourne.com
508.759.0600, Ext. 1308



COVID-19 Weekly Update issued May 1, 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 18, 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. We are posting the daily Situation Report (SITREP) from MEMA on the town's website. Access the Red COVID-19 Banner at the top of the Home Page to read this report and other COVID-19 information. This report not only has current data, but also many links to other informative information.
 - c. The MA Department of Public Health is now posting daily a COVID-19 Dashboard with important data related to the pandemic. Please visit this link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>
2. The Bourne Board of Selectmen 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. 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. 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 & early childhood education centers remain closed until at least June 30, 2020.
 - d. **(Update)**-The Governor has issued a statewide "Stay at Home Advisory" through May 18, 2020.
 - e. **(Update)** In addition, all non-essential businesses were ordered closed until noon on May 18, 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. 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.
 - h. There was a new advisory issued late last week for people to wear a face mask or covering if venturing out in public where it is often difficult to maintain social distancing, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.
3. Town Meeting/Town Elections: On March 17, 2020, the Bourne Board of Selectmen 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 Selectmen 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 29th 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 Selectmen 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 will go back to weekly starting on April 27, 2020.** 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.
- a. **(New)** – Starting 4/27/20, the facility is open for Residential yard waste and brush – please visit the ISWM page on the website for more information.
6. 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>.

7. 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>
8. 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.
9. **(Update)** Additional resources were recently added by the Chamber on their website. Many new programs are now coming on line to help businesses and employees cope with the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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> for additional information.
10. 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
11. The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, Inc. is holding a Food4Vets event in Bourne on May 6th from 10am-12pm at 99 Main Street Buzzards Bay. If you are a veteran or know of a veteran who can use a 14 day meal kit please let them know of this event. Preregistration is required and can be done at the following link www.massmilitarysupportfoundation.org
12. Our Council on Aging Director and staff are available by calling 508-759-0600 extension 5226 or 5227 if you need assistance. There are still a few boxes of food available to Bourne Veterans. If any Veterans need food assistance and can use one of the remaining boxes with two weeks of non-perishables, please call at the number above. There are also emergency kits available for anyone who needs one.
 - a. The COA is also taking orders for “drop and go” meals from Cyd’s Kitchen. Orders for need to be made by Friday for delivery the following week.
 - b. If anyone needs Meals on Wheels, please call Elder Services at 508-394-4630.
 - c. The Bourne Food Pantry is no longer able to take direct food donations, but will accept financial assistance. If you would like to help, please call 508-759-3351.
13. The Town Clerk’s Office has updated information regarding both the Special Election and Annual Town Election on the Town’s website and the Town Clerk page. Please visit the link below for the latest information regarding upcoming elections.
14. **Update** – A few weeks ago, the county and Cape Cod Health Care developed what they call a Heat Map that would give interested residents the ability to see a more visual breakout of COVID-19 cases by town and even by Zip Code. We initially opted out of the Zip Code feature because of Bourne’s somewhat convoluted system in that 02532 would had parts of Wareham in it and 02542 has JBCC information, but includes Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth and Mashpee. It was our desire to not partake in the Zip Code layer until we could have some reasonable assurance that our data was as accurate as possible. Thanks to Terri Guarino, the

Health Agent, she spent hours working with those who put this information together to get to a point where we can now show more accurate Bourne data with footnotes as required. You can find this Heat Map at the following link: <https://www.capecodhealth.org/medical-services/infectious-disease/coronavirus/cases-on-the-cape/>

15. (New) – Department of Natural Resources – with boating season upon us, Town Administration, Director of DNR and the Health Agent have issued new guidelines, etc. for marina and boat ramp operations, and other important information for those wishing to enjoy the water. Please visit the DNR page on the town’s website for the latest information.
16. (New) – Today, Governor Baker announced a new Executive Order requiring a Face Covering when social distancing cannot be assured. This new order takes effect on May 6, 2020 and includes grocery stores, retail stores, pharmacies, etc. The exact language of the Executive Order were not immediately available, but everyone should become familiar with once it becomes publically available.
17. We continue to focus on providing essential government functions to our residents and businesses daily. 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
 - j. Barnstable County – www.barnstablecounty.org
 - k. Major Crisis Relief Fund – www.majorcrisisrelieffund.org
 - l. MA DPH Daily COVID 19 Dashbord - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>
 - m. Department of Natural Resources: <https://www.townofbourne.com/natural-resources>
 - n. Town Clerk: <https://www.townofbourne.com/clerk>