TOWN OF HOPKINTON
18 Main Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748

COVID-19 Updates & Precautions
August 12, 2020 update

Previous updates and additional information and resources can be found here:
https://coronavirus-hopkintonma.hub.arcgis.com/

We are pleased to announce that Hopkinton Town Hall reopened to the public as of Monday August 10th. Appointments are required, and details are provided in the updates section below. All town departments are open for business. Many transactions can be completed online, and we are available via phone and email to assist during regular business hours. A full Town Directory can be found here. A box at the front door of Town Hall may be used to drop off correspondence, applications, etc., and they may also be mailed or emailed.

As of 8/11/20, Hopkinton's Health Department is reporting 135 total confirmed COVID-19 cases; 2 of those cases are active, with 121 recoveries and 12 deaths. You can see historical tracking and updates on Hopkinton's Community Impact Dashboard.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 weekly Public Health Report- NEW UPDATE
The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report includes enhanced, more granular information to be updated on a weekly, or biweekly basis, including town-by-town case and testing information, cases and deaths in Long Term Care Facilities, updates on nursing facility audit results, and more.
https://www.mass.gov/doc/weekly-covid-19-public-health-report-august-12-2020/download

Massachusetts Releases Enhanced Community Level Data on Spread of COVID-19 - NEW UPDATE
On Tuesday, 8/11/2020, the Baker-Polito Administration released additional data on community level spread of COVID-19 in order to target additional resources and implement community specific strategies to stop the spread of the virus. Based on the average daily cases per 100,000 residents, each city or town has been designated as a higher risk, moderate risk, or lower risk community. Going forward, this information will be updated and included in the Department of Public Health's weekly public health dashboard, which is published each Wednesday. Click here to view a map with these designations by community. Click here to read the full Press Release from Mass.gov.

Hopkinton Senior Center - NEW UPDATE
The Senior Center, with a grant from the MetroWest Health Foundation, has begun a limited take-out lunch program (Tuesday - Friday) for Hopkinton seniors, particularly those who are homebound and/or have relied on the Center for their daily main meal in the past. While we have limited quantities, if you know of a senior who might benefit from this program please call the Senior Center at 508-497-9730. Cost is $2 per meal.

Hopkinton Public Library - NEW UPDATE
<u>Destination Passes now available:</u> We are pleased to announce that patrons can now reserve Destination Passes and pick them up through the library's curbside pickup service. Destination Passes, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Hopkinton Public Library, provide reduced-cost admission to a range of local attractions.

Please be aware that many museums, parks, and zoos have additional visitor restrictions; patrons using Destination Passes should contact the venue for details before making arrangements to visit. Only printable or single-use/coupon Destination Passes are available at this time.

You can view and reserve available passes on our website at www.hopkintonlibrary.org/museums2.asp; once you have made a reservation, you may print off the pass at home if it is printable or contact the library at 508-497-9777, extension 1, to schedule a pickup time.

<u>Curbside Pickup hours:</u> At present, curbside pickup is available between 10 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays. We would appreciate the community's input on the convenience of these hours and their possible expansion. Please take a moment to share your thoughts in a short poll at https://t.co/hzDJCUQOLy?amp=1

Statewide Updated Gatherings Order:
Governor Baker is signing an updated gatherings order, effective Tuesday, August 11, which will:
- Reduce the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)
- Apply these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property
- Require face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.

Click here to read the full order

Primary Election - Voting info:
The new election law passed by the General Court and Signed by the Governor has significantly expanded early voting, by-mail and in-person. Due to occupancy issues at Hopkinton Town Hall, the Board of Registrars voted on 08/04/2020 to move early voting in person for the Primary to the Hopkinton Senior Center at 28 Mayhew Street. Voters will not use the main entrance and will enter through the library door and will exit through the side door once they have voted. Mask wearing as well as social distancing will be required.

The hours at the Senior Center will be as follows:

- Saturday (08/22) and Sunday (08/23) - 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Monday (08/24), Wednesday (08/26), and Thursday (08/27) - 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Tuesday (08/25) - 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Friday (08/28) - 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

This will serve as an addition to mail-in early voting and in person voting at the polls on the day of the Primary to better spread out voting and limit potential exposure.

Town Hall Reopening Plan:
On Monday August 10th, Town Hall reopened to the public by appointment only. This is due to the state's COVID-19 limits on building occupancy. Currently, only one visitor will be allowed, per floor, at a time. Under this initial reopening, any member of the public wishing to visit Town Hall in person must schedule an appointment in advance. To make an appointment with Town Hall staff, please contact the department directly to schedule a mutually available time slot. When arriving for your confirmed appointment, all visitors must wear a face-covering for the duration of the visit. In addition, visitors will be required to complete a COVID-19 attestation form in advance or upon arrival. Any individual who has symptoms of COVID-19 is asked to stay home and reschedule their appointment..
In order to support physical distancing, the Town has installed signage and markings to provide guidance, as well as plexiglass barriers at customer-facing counters for protection. Hand-sanitizers have also been installed throughout Town Hall.

All Town departments continue to offer residents and businesses the ability to conduct transactions online, by mail, by phone, and via the drop-boxes located in the rear and front of Town Hall. The Town encourages residents and businesses to use online services to conduct business.

Under this initial reopening phase, the Town continues to protect the health and safety of the public and its employees by following state guidelines. Adhering to the state's reduced capacity requirement, 50% of staff will be at Town Hall at any given time. All staff are required to complete a COVID-19 attestation form daily before entering the office and wear a face-covering in shared spaces, including corridors, lobbies and restrooms. Staff who have COVID-19 symptoms must remain at home.

The Facilities Department is sanitizing high touch areas frequently.

Future phases of the reopening of Town Hall will depend on public health measures, state guidelines, and will be announced when they are determined.

COVID Safe Practices Concern Form:
If you have a concern about a workplace's compliance with the Commonwealth's workplace safety standards and protocols, you may report it to the Department of Labor Standards. Click here for more info. The Department of Public Health or the Hopkinton Board of Health may follow up with you if you include your contact information.

Guidance for Travelers arriving in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:
On July 24, 2020, the Governor, issued COVID-19 Order No. 45 adopting a mandatory 14-day quarantine for travelers arriving in Massachusetts (hereinafter, the Order). The effective date of the Order is August 1, 2020. This binding guidance must be followed by all travelers entering Massachusetts, except those covered by limited exemptions. More info can be found here:
https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts

Travelers from COVID-19 lower-risk States are not required to fill out the Massachusetts Travel Form and do not need to quarantine. States are included on the list based on meeting two criteria: average daily cases per 100K below 6 AND positive test rate below 5%, both measured as a 7-day rolling average. Data is from covidexitstrategy.org as of July 21, 2020. The current list of COVID-19 lower-risk states includes: Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Hawaii, New Jersey, Maine, New York. (Note: Effective Friday, August 7, Rhode Island is no longer listed as a lower-risk state)

Stop the Spread" Free Covid-19 Testing Sites:
The Commonwealth is launching a strategic testing program in communities across Massachusetts that have continued to see a higher number of residents testing positive for COVID-19. The program runs through August 14th. While Hopkinton is not one of these communities that is seeing a higher number of residents testing positive, the testing is free and is available to anybody. Testing is open to everyone. You don't need to have symptom(s). There is no cost, and testing at these sites is not restricted to residents of the city or town where the testing is taking place. The closest testing sites to Hopkinton are in Marlborough and (newly added) Framingham. More info can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/stopthespread

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Hopkinton also posts frequently on social media. Our Twitter is the best place to keep up with all happenings Hopkinton. You don't need an account to see our twitter feed:
https://twitter.com/HopkintonMA

Complete list of Emergency Orders and Guidance from Mass.gov
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency