

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for March 12, 2021

As of the most recent weekly public health report, there have been 485 positive cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Southwick. The Southwick Board of Health would like to stress that this is not a complete profile of the status of COVID-19 in the Town of Southwick. This number reflects those individuals who have received positive test results and *not* those awaiting results, untested symptomatic individuals, and those who might currently be asymptomatic. Additional information on case numbers can be found at mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting.

! NEW INFORMATION – The Baker-Polito Administration announced a new preregistration signup tool will be available for the state's 7 mass vaccination sites starting Friday, March 12. The new system will make it easier to request and book an appointment at a mass vaccination site at a nearby location when they are available. More sites will be added to the preregistration system in the coming weeks. The preregistration site can be accessed at mass.gov/info-details/preregister-for-a-covid-19-vaccine-appointment. Eligible individuals without internet access can preregister over the phone by calling **2-1-1**.

COVID-19 Vaccine information - Due to extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, it could take more than a month for all eligible individuals to secure an available appointment, unless federal supply significantly increases. Currently, individuals 65 years and up, those with two CDC approved medical conditions, and K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff are eligible to receive the vaccine. Residents are encouraged to preregister at the site listed above, as well as to keep checking the State website, vaxfinder.mass.gov, as appointments are added on a rolling basis. Additionally, seniors, ages 65 and up, can call **2-1-1** for assistance with locating and signing up for the vaccine.

! NEW INFORMATION –All visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow the [travel orders](#). All travelers are instructed to complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) prior to arrival and to self-quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts, except travelers from **Hawaii, Missouri, Oregon, Puerto Rico, and Washington**. All persons are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals who are COVID-19-recovered, meaning individuals who tested positive more than 10 days but less than 90 days ago and who do not have symptoms, do not need to obtain a negative PCR test prior to traveling to, or quarantine upon arrival to, Massachusetts. **Persons Who Have Been Completely Vaccinated for COVID-19, more than 14 days ago and who do not have symptoms, do not need to obtain a negative test prior to traveling to, or quarantine upon arrival to, Massachusetts. COVID-19 vaccinated individuals arriving in Massachusetts must have documentation of their vaccination(s), including the date(s) of administration, available if asked. This exception does not include vaccinated individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, who must follow all testing and quarantine guidance outlined in the travel rules**

The Town Hall north side lobby is open to the public for Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector, and Assessors services. All other offices are available by phone, on-line, and by appointment. Due to the nature of our operations during the pandemic, please call these other offices before visiting Town Hall. All efforts have been made to ensure that customers and staff are kept safe. The Town of Southwick asks all visitors entering the building to abide by all posted signage.

Due to the continued rise in cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, residents are urged to continue to follow all public health precautions for reducing the spread of COVID-19: stay home unless absolutely necessary; if you must go out in public, practicing social distancing and proper hygiene etiquette; wear face coverings when inside retail stores and when social distancing cannot be maintained; and if you are experiencing signs of illness - fever, cough, shortness of breath – call your primary care provider for advice.

The Southwick Board of Health and Select Board continue to post case numbers and updated information regarding COVID-19 every week at southwickma.org. For additional up-to-date information please visit mass.gov/2019coronavirus and cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov. For non-emergency information and assistance, please call 2-1-1 or visit mass211.org.