

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for May 1, 2020

As of Friday, May 1, 2020, there have been 40 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. Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is posting cases by municipality. This information can be accessed at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-cases-quarantine-and-monitoring>.

Starting on Saturday, May 2, 2020, the Southwick Board of Health will be mandating the wearing of face coverings at all businesses providing essential services in which people are unable to maintain safe social distancing in the Town of Southwick. This mandate applies to both the employees of such businesses, as well as their customers. Face coverings can include disposable masks, filtered masks, cloth masks, scarves, bandanas, or other coverings that can securely cover the nose and mouth. A copy of the order can be found on the Coronavirus update page at southwickma.org.

The Southwick Board of Health is additionally asking all residents to follow the CDC's advisory to wear face coverings while out in public and wherever six feet of social distance cannot be maintained. The CDC advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and to keep people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Low cost cloth face coverings can be fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials. Links to information on how to make a cloth mask at home will be posted on the Coronavirus update page at southwickma.org.

Town residents with a Transfer Station sticker may continue to bring brush at no cost to TJ Bark Mulch, at 25 Sam West Road. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 8AM to 4PM. Bulky items requiring a separate permit will still not be accepted at the Transfer Station until further notice.

The Southwick Board of Health and Select Board continue to post case numbers and updated information regarding COVID-19 every Friday 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.