

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for May 15, 2020

As of Friday, May 15, 2020, there have been 50 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>.

On Monday, May 18, 2020, Governor Baker's Reopening Advisory Board will be issuing its first report on the State's Four-Phase Reopening Approach. Information that the municipalities are expected to receive will cover: the different phases that the state will follow as we recover from the public health crisis; what activities and industries are safe to resume in each phase; the public health metrics that would indicate it is safe to move from one phase to the next; general business guidance about social distancing, personal protection, and cleaning protocols that all businesses will need to follow upon reopening; and industry specific guidance and detailed protocols for how to reopen safely. The Town of Southwick will endeavor to communicate this information as quickly as possible to businesses, organizations, and industry within the community. The Southwick Town Hall continues to be closed to the public.

Starting the week of May 18th, collection of brush and bulky items requiring a separate permit will resume at the Town of Southwick Transfer Station. Permits for bulky items can be purchased electronically on the Town website through the Clerk's office. The Transfer Station operates Tuesdays from 11:30 am to 7:20 pm, Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 4:20 am, Fridays from 8:00 am to 4:20 pm, and Saturdays from 8:00 am to 3:50 pm. Please pay attention to any signage and respect social distancing protocols when visiting the Transfer Station.

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 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.