

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for May 22, 2020

As of Friday, May 22, 2020, there have been 53 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 issued its first report on the State's Four-Phase Reopening Approach. Information to help businesses meet the self-certification requirement to reopen can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>. All businesses must meet these requirements before reopening. Businesses operating to provide Essential Services, as defined in the Governor's March 23, 2020 Executive Order may remain open and have until May 25, 2020 to comply with these mandatory safety standards. Businesses that are allowed to reopen on May 25, 2020 must also go through the self-certification process and comply with these mandatory safety standards.

Collection of brush and bulky items requiring a separate permit have resumed 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. The Southwick Town Hall - while still closed to the public - continues to provide services over the phone, online, and curbside by appointment.

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.