

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for November 6, 2020

As of Friday, November 6, 2020, there have been 103 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 <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>.

Earlier this week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a series of targeted measures to disrupt the increasing trend of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Governor Baker announced these changes at a time where public health data has indicated that cases are rising, with cases up by 278% and hospitalizations up by 145% since Labor Day. These measures are meant to disrupt rising trends now, so the Commonwealth can keep the economy open for residents and to prevent the need to roll back to Phase I or Phase II of the reopening plan. All orders and advisories will be effective Friday, November 6th at 12:01 AM. The new orders and advisors are as follows:

- **Stay At Home Advisory:** The Administration issued a revised Stay At Home Advisory to ensure residents avoid unnecessary activities that can lead to increased COVID-19 transmission. The revised Stay At Home Advisory instructs residents to stay home between 10 PM and 5 AM. The Advisory allows for activities such as going to work, running critical errands to get groceries and address health needs, and taking a walk. Click here to read the revised Stay At Home Advisory: www.mass.gov/stayhome.
- **Early Closure of Businesses and Activities:** Governor Baker issued a new executive order that requires the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 PM. The 9:30 PM closure requirement is aligned with the Stay At Home Advisory and together the two new initiatives are designed to further limit activities that could lead to COVID-19 transmission. Effective November 6, businesses and activities subject to this order must close to the public each day between the hours of 9:30 PM and 5:00 AM. To read the full order, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-53/download>.
- **Face Covering Order:** Governor Baker also signed an updated order related to face-coverings. The revised order requires all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others. The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition. To read the full order, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-55/download>.
- **Gatherings Order:** Governor Baker also signed an updated order restricting gatherings. The new gatherings order reduces the gathering size limit for gatherings at private residences: indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people. The limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues (e.g. wedding venues) remains the same. The new order also requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30 PM.

The new gatherings order also requires that organizers of gatherings report known positive COVID-19 cases to the local health department in that community and requires organizers to cooperate with contact

tracing. The gatherings order authorizes continued enforcement by local health and police departments and specifies that fines for violating the gathering order will be \$500 for each person above the limit at a particular gathering. To read the full order, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-54/download>.

All visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow the [new travel orders](#). All travelers arriving to Massachusetts – including Massachusetts residents returning home – are instructed to complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) prior to arrival and to self-quarantine for 14 days, **except travelers from California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, and Washington**. All persons are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. For more information, including the most current list of lower-risk states, exemptions, business guidance and other details, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>.

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 recent increase 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.