

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for October 9, 2020

As of Friday, October 9, 2020, there have been 81 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-cases-quarantine-and-monitoring>.

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that beginning Monday, October 5th, lower risk communities are now permitted to move into Step II of Phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan. All other communities will remain in Phase III, Step I. Lower risk communities are defined as cities and towns that have not been a "red" community in any of the last three weekly Department of Public Health weekly reports. The Town of Southwick is currently a lower risk community. Industry specific guidance and protocols for a range of Phase I, II, and III businesses will also be updated and can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/resource/reopening-sector-specific-protocols-and-best-practices>. Governor Charlie Baker also issued a revised gatherings order which allows lower risk communities to increase the limit allowed at outdoor gatherings at event venues in public settings to 100 persons.

Effective August 1, 2020, all visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow 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 Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont**. 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. 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.