TOWN OF HOPKINTON
18 Main Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748

COVID-19 Updates & Precautions
August 10, 2020 update

Previous updates and additional information and resources can be found here:
https://coronavirus-hopkintonma.hub.arcgis.com/

We are pleased to announce that Hopkinton Town Hall reopened to the public as of today, Monday August 10th. Appointments are required, and details are provided in the updates section below. All town departments are open for business. Many transactions can be completed online, and we are available via phone and email to assist during regular business hours. A full Town Directory can be found here. A box at the front door of Town Hall may be used to drop off correspondence, applications, etc., and they may also be mailed or emailed.

As of 8/10/20, Hopkinton's Health Department is reporting 135 total confirmed COVID-19 cases; 2 of those cases are active, with 121 recoveries and 12 deaths. You can see historical tracking and updates on Hopkinton's Community Impact Dashboard.

Statewide Updated Gatherings Order - NEW UPDATE
Governor Baker is signing an updated gatherings order, effective Tuesday, August 11, which will:
- Reduce the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)
- Apply these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property
- Require face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.

Click here to read the full order

Cross-Agency COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team - NEW UPDATE
On Friday, 8/7/2020, The Baker Administration announced a targeted cross-agency COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team that will be responsible for ramping up enforcement statewide and coordinating local intervention efforts at the local level in higher risk COVID-19 communities.

Communities will be designated as higher risk COVID-19 communities based on public health data, including but not limited to rising trends for new cases and the percentage of positive COVID tests. We expect more information and details to be released in upcoming days.

Primary Election - Voting info - NEW UPDATE
The new election law passed by the General Court and Signed by the Governor has significantly expanded early voting, by-mail and in-person. Due to occupancy issues at Hopkinton Town Hall, the Board of Registrars voted on 08/04/2020 to move early voting in person for the Primary to the Hopkinton Senior Center at 28 Mayhew Street. Voters will not use the main entrance and will enter through the library door and will exit through the side door once they have voted. Mask wearing as well as social distancing will be required.

The hours at the Senior Center will be as follows:

- Saturday (08/22) and Sunday (08/23) - 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Monday (08/24), Wednesday (08/26), and Thursday (08/27) - 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Tuesday (08/25) - 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Friday (08/28) - 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

This will serve as an addition to mail-in early voting and in person voting at the polls on the day of the Primary to better spread out voting and limit potential exposure.

Town Hall Reopening Plan - REMINDER
On Monday August 10th, Town Hall will reopen to the public by appointment only. This is due to the state's COVID-19 limits on building occupancy. Currently, only one visitor will be allowed, per floor, at a time. Under this initial reopening, any member of the public wishing to visit Town Hall in person must schedule an appointment in advance. To make an appointment with Town Hall staff, please contact the department directly to schedule a mutually available time slot. When arriving for your confirmed appointment, all visitors must wear a face-covering for the duration of the visit. In addition, visitors will be required to complete a COVID-19 attestation form in advance or upon arrival. Any individual who has symptoms of COVID-19 is asked to stay home and reschedule their appointment..

In order to support physical distancing, the Town has installed signage and markings to provide guidance, as well as plexiglass barriers at customer-facing counters for protection. Hand-sanitizers have also been installed throughout Town Hall.

All Town departments continue to offer residents and businesses the ability to conduct transactions online, by mail, by phone, and via the drop-boxes located in the rear and front of Town Hall. The Town encourages residents and businesses to use online services to conduct business.

Under this initial reopening phase, the Town continues to protect the health and safety of the public and its employees by following state guidelines. Adhering to the state's reduced capacity requirement, 50% of staff will be at Town Hall at any given time. All staff are required to complete a COVID-19 attestation form daily before entering the office and wear a face-covering in shared spaces, including corridors, lobbies and restrooms. Staff who have COVID-19 symptoms must remain at home.

The Facilities Department is sanitizing high touch areas frequently.

Future phases of the reopening of Town Hall will depend on public health measures, state guidelines, and will be announced when they are determined.

COVID Safe Practices Concern Form:
If you have a concern about a workplace's compliance with the Commonwealth's workplace safety standards and protocols, you may report it to the Department of Labor Standards. Click here for more info. The Department of Public Health or the Hopkinton Board of Health may follow up with you if you include your contact information.

Guidance for Travelers arriving in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:
On July 24, 2020, the Governor, issued COVID-19 Order No. 45 adopting a mandatory 14-day quarantine for travelers arriving in Massachusetts (hereinafter, the Order). The effective date of the Order is August 1, 2020. This binding guidance must be followed by all travelers entering Massachusetts, except those covered by limited exemptions. More info can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts

Travelers from COVID-19 lower-risk States are not required to fill out the Massachusetts Travel Form and do not need to quarantine. States are included on the list based on meeting two criteria: average daily cases per 100K below 6 AND positive test rate below 5%, both measured as a 7-day rolling average. Data is from covidexitstrategy.org as of July 21, 2020. The current list of COVID-19 lower-risk states includes: Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Hawaii, New Jersey, Maine, New York. (Note: Effective Friday, August 7, Rhode Island is no longer listed as a lower-risk state)

Stop the Spread" Free Covid-19 Testing Sites:
The Commonwealth is launching a strategic testing program in communities across Massachusetts that have continued to see a higher number of residents testing positive for COVID-19. The program runs through August 14th. While Hopkinton is not one of these communities that is seeing a higher number of residents testing positive, the testing is free and is available to anybody. Testing is open to everyone. You don't need to have symptom(s). There is no cost, and testing at these sites is not restricted to residents of the city or town where the testing is taking place. The closest testing sites to Hopkinton are in Marlborough and (newly added) Framingham. More info can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/stopthespread

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Hopkinton also posts frequently on social media. Our Twitter is the best place to keep up with all happenings Hopkinton. You don't need an account to see our twitter feed: https://twitter.com/HopkintonMA

Complete list of Emergency Orders and Guidance from Mass.gov
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency