



TOWN OF WALPOLE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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TOWN OF WALPOLE MARCH 12, 2020
CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Town Administrator
James A. Johnson

Health Director
Melissa Ranieri

Given the current situation regarding the coronavirus, the Governor's State of Emergency recommending against large gatherings and a concern for the health and safety of our residents, employees, businesses and visitors the Town of Walpole has made the difficult decision to indefinitely close the Walpole Council on Aging to the public beginning Monday March 16, 2020. Town officials and Council on Aging staff are committed to developing ways that we can continue to provide essential services to Walpole Seniors.

At this time, Council on Aging staff are working to determine how the Department will continue to provide essential health and human services to its clients. Council on Aging staff will continue to be present to answer phone calls and work through outreach issues that may come up.

As Town and School officials await further guidance from state and federal officials Walpole officials have begun to cancel and scale back all non-essential meetings, events and gatherings for the foreseeable future. It is expected that additional building closures will be forthcoming in the near future.

The Town continues to evaluate and consult with Town Counsel as to how to handle scheduled Board and Committee meetings during this pandemic. No decision to cancel meetings has been made at this time however that is likely to change as the situation progresses. No decision to cancel events such as Spring Town Meeting, Walpole Day, Memorial Day events, the Town election and the Night Before the Fourth of July celebration have been made at this time. It is expected that Town officials will take a 2-3 week look ahead going forward when considering canceling meetings, events and large gatherings.

Walpole residents are advised that Walpole Public Safety officials have been briefed that cybercriminals are hard at work with engineering attacks via social media using the coronavirus as a means to catch people with their guard down. In one particular instance cyber criminals have used a virus laced on a coronavirus map on social media to compromise computers in 19 countries and counting. In another incidence cyber criminals have been caught impersonating health officials in an attempt to gain access to personal data. These types of methods usually involve creating a sense of urgency, ultimately tricking victims to sign up for upcoming COVID19 vaccines so they are not put onto a long wait list. Please continue to be vigilant and mindful of these types of cyber scams.

The Town of Walpole understands that these are unprecedented and challenging times for everyone and we appreciate your support and understanding as we move forward. If there is assistance you need from the Town please do not hesitate to contact Town officials via email or phone. A full listing of Town emails and phone numbers can be found on the Town website at <https://walpole-ma.gov> and for the latest on local issues related to the coronavirus please go to <https://walpole-ma.gov/covid19> . The Town will continue to provide updates as they become available.