



**TOWN OF WALPOLE**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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**TOWN OF WALPOLE MARCH 15, 2020**  
**CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**WALPOLE TOWN BUILDINGS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

Town Administrator  
*James A. Johnson*

Health Director  
*Melissa Ranieri*

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Today Town officials took the necessary steps to declare a state of emergency within the Town of Walpole. With this decision the Town now has the ability to expend funds without budget allocation, request state resources as necessary and to address emergency conditions as they come up. In lieu of this decision the Town of Walpole has decided to close all Town Buildings including the Police and Fire Stations to the public until further notice. This decision is being made out of abundance of caution to attempt to limit in person contact while also continuing to provide basic services to residents and business owners. The Town has also begun to take the necessary steps to cancel non-essential Government meetings. For now Town staff will continue to report to work as scheduled and provide services to residents.

Despite the decision to close public buildings the Town has taken the following steps to ensure that delivery of essential municipal services continue. Real estate and water and sewer bills will continue to be mailed in the upcoming weeks, sewer and water service will go uninterrupted. The Water Department has stocked up on chemicals for water treatment and the Water Superintendent and DPW Director have decided to raise the reserve levels of all of the Water storage tanks throughout Walpole.

Residents who need to submit a payment can use the drop box that can be found at the exterior entrance of Town Hall near the river. The Building Commissioner's office and the Fire Department is going to limit inspections to exterior and emergency inspections only at this time. Residents and contractors can continue to pull permits online using the Town's Cloud based permitting system. For those who need birth certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses they can email their requests directly to Town Clerk Liz Gaffey at [lgaffey@walpole-ma.gov](mailto:lgaffey@walpole-ma.gov) or Assistant Town Clerk Laura Banford at [lbamford@walpole-ma.gov](mailto:lbamford@walpole-ma.gov) and they will respond in a timely manner. Nomination papers for the June 6<sup>th</sup> election will continue to be available for pick-up through advanced to the Clerk's office.

Places of congregation are strongly urged to limit the number of people in one location. The Town is mindful of the action taken earlier today by Boston Mayor Walsh which required bars and restaurants have to cut their capacity to 50 percent and required facilities to close by 11PM. The Town remains optimistic that the state will provide guidance during the upcoming days before the Town is forced to make a unilateral determination.

We continue to urge residents to continue to be vigilant, avoid large gatherings, practice social distancing and good hygiene, stay home as much as possible to limit exposure to coronavirus and most importantly make the decisions that are best for you and your families. We encourage everyone in the community to review plans for alternate work schedules, child care, daytime activities and other impacts of this situation.

As the Coronavirus outbreak is extremely fluid, we are reminding the community that any decisions may change at a moment's notice pending updated guidance from the State and the Walpole Board of Health. We ask for your flexibility, support and understanding as we work to best address the needs of our entire community at this difficult time.

The Town of Walpole has set up a webpage (<https://walpole-ma.gov/covid19>) which will provide the latest Coronavirus information available to residents. The Town will ensure that memos, advisories and school related information will be posted on this site to ensure that everyone has the most up to date information available. The Town will take advantage of various municipal social media service outlets, such as Schools, Public Safety, Recreation and Council on Aging to disseminate educational material to promote preventative measures to reduce the risk of exposure. If the Town is forced to take additional steps we will share this information on multiple platforms including the Town of Walpole's Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/TownofWalpole>), the Walpole Board of Health's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WalpoleHealthDepartment/>) and the Town's website.