



City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROXANN WEDEGARTNER

Mayor

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1560 • Fax 413-772-1519
Mayor@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Media Release

DATE: March 19, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Danielle Letourneau, Chief of Staff
(413) 772-1560 Office of the Mayor
(413) 772-1581 direct

Greenfield, MA Coronavirus Preparedness Update – March 19, 2020

What is in place, here in the City of Greenfield.

In early March, the Mayor assembled an interdepartmental team, including Health and Public safety, and select members of the School Department, School Committee and City Council, who met and shared resources to start planning the response to COVID-19.

All city buildings are closed to the public. For ongoing business with the public, City staff is working and available via telephone. The City's main number is 413-772-1500.

Drop off boxes have been added to City Hall, in addition to mail and online payments.

The City of Greenfield, in its efforts to ease the financial burden on citizens, is extending the due date on the excise taxes from March 23, 2020 to April 6, 2020.

This will allow people more time to get payments in the mail, drop box or pay online before they accrue any interest.

The City will not add demand fees to any bills (excise, water/sewer, real estate and personal property) from Today, March 19, 2020, until we are out of this period of crisis and we are back to normal operations here in the City Hall.

Health, Fire, Police are coordinating with the Mayor's office, one another, with our neighboring towns and with the schools multiple times a day.

Parking enforcement is armed with sanitizing materials and gloves, and is out and about but only giving tickets for parking violations that violate safety (fire lanes, etc.) and accessibility (handicapped spots). If any citizen received a parking ticket this week, they should appeal it, and it will be waived. We apologize for the delay we had in communicating our plans to the enforcement officers out on the street.

The Health Department staff and Board of Health members met with representatives from Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to discuss, plan, and update the Greenfield Emergency Dispensing Site and emergency response plan.

Beginning 3/12/2020, the Health Department created and distributed a guidance document to all restaurants and food permit holders re: hand washing, proper glove use, sanitizing procedure and so forth. They have visited approximately 60 food permit holders since then speaking to managers and store team leaders. On 3/16/2020, restaurants and food service permit holders were revisited to distribute Governor Baker's prohibition of onsite food and drink, social distancing recommendation, and large event recommendations.

Board of Health member Jennifer Hoffman has been appointed by the Mayor as the official liaison with local Health Care Facilities.

Building inspections will carry on in a modified way, prioritizing the work done in unoccupied locations first, and keeping in mind the safety of our inspectors.

The Health Department has continued to complete compliance checks for local restaurants for on-site consumption and continue to advise citizens and answer concerns in office.

The Assessor's office has suspended inspections at this time.

The City is working with local social service agencies on a public-private joint plan to help people who face homelessness who may be sick at this time.

The Greenfield Public Schools are distributing grab and go meals to children at several sites, and the city is collaborating with the schools in any way we can.

A deep cleaning of City offices and building has started, after reviewed cleaning products for appropriate disinfectant properties.

We have implemented an Expanded Emergency Telecommuting and Paid Time Off Plan, in accordance with the pending emergency paid sick leave act expected to be signed. Under the plan, certain City employees can work remotely immediately, and City employees will have access to future accrued Sick, Vacation, and Personal time in order to stay home if necessary. Our Information Technology department has worked tirelessly to make the telecommuting plans possible.

We reactivated the Mayor's Facebook Pages, and we have built a Coronavirus Emergency Information page, on the City's website: <https://greenfield-ma.gov/p/2931/COVID-19-Information--Resources>

The Mayor's Office staff is compiling FAQs from the public so we can better answer constituent concerns. The Mayor has been on calls with Local, State and Federal officials advocating for assistance and resources.

In a few days we will roll out a Public Hotline for Coronavirus related questions and information. This will be available to the public M-F, during business hours, in coordination with the Health Department.

For questions about the response, please contact the Mayor's office at 413-772-1560, and for health related questions contact the Health Department at 413-772-1404.

