OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
870 Moraine Street
Marshfield, MA 02050

MARSHFIELD'S COVID – 19 TASK FORCE UPDATE

May 11, 2020

Task Force: Police, Fire, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Emergency Operation Center, Town Administrator, Schools, DPW and Council on Aging.

To All Marshfield Residents:

This update is intended to inform Marshfield residents and visitors that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, per the MAVEN database, is reporting that as of May 11, 2020 there are at least 733 suspected and/or confirmed cases of Covid-19.

The number of confirmed cases in Marshfield is 136.

We regret to report that to date, there have been 11 deaths in our community attributed to Covid-19.

Community Tracing Collaborative

Partners In Health

Thank you for your help in spreading the word about contact tracing in Massachusetts. Along with testing and social distancing, contact tracing is an important part of continuing to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

We have put together a small toolkit of material, including social media-ready messages and images you can use to help spread the word about the importance of contact tracing.

Attached is a document that includes some language for use in newsletters, blogs, websites and other platforms you use to communicate with your constituents. Also attached are images with English and Spanish language for your use. Below are some suggested social media messages that can be used with the attached images.

Answer the call and stop the spread of COVID-19. If you get a call from the MA COVID Team with area codes 833 or 857, answer the call and help our contact tracing effort. Learn more at mass.gov/matracingteam.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSCHUSETTS
TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
BOARD OF HEALTH

UPDATED ORDER ON MARINAS AND RECREATIONAL BOATING

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Board of Selectmen determined, in consultation with the federal, state and local public health officials, that COVID-19 poses a significant, immediate threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of people residing both within and outside the Town of Marshfield, and, as such, declared a Local State of Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued an Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People (COVID-19 Order No. 13), which order was revised and extended on March 31, 2020 and on April 28, 2020, and

WHEREAS the on April 27, 2020, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued guidance concerning boating and various other marine and inland waterway related activities permitting certain boating activities;

WHEREAS on May 1, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued an order effective on May 6, 2020 ordering all residents over the age of two to use a face covering or mask in public places where maintaining proper social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are not possible and this order supersedes previously issued guidance relative to mask use ("Governor's Face Covering Order").

WHEREAS on May 1, 2020, the Board of Health approved and issued an updated Marina and Boating Guidance Order which maintained the closure with limited exceptions of marinas in the Town of Marshfield;

WHEREAS on May 7, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relaxing certain restrictions on golf courses, a form of recreational activity, and permitted the opening of public and private golf courses with guidance restrictions.

WHEREAS the Board of Health, in consideration of the Governor's prior orders, believes that it is in the public interest to try and be consistent in the application of its regulations and orders, and that with appropriate restrictions on gatherings, strict social guidance, and face coverings that a more expanded use of marinas is consistent with public health and public safety.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to our authority as the Board of Health of the Town under the above-referenced declarations of a local state of public health emergency, the applicable provisions of Mass. Gen. L. c. 111 §31, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, we, the Board of Health hereby order the following:

1. Private marinas may permit recreational boater owners to utilize marina slips and docks so long as there are no gatherings of any kind, appropriate social distancing of six feet between individuals is strictly followed, and the marina owners and operators and persons on any marina property abide by the specific guidelines for marinas as follows:

- Security personnel shall be delineated by each marina and wear appropriate identification and will be present to enforce social distancing on marina property, docks, slips, ramps and vessels.
- All boat owners and persons on any recreational vessel while at the marina and all marina staff must wear face coverings while on property, including on the ramps, landings, docks, floats and slips.
- Marina facilities including but not limited to the clubhouse, bars, restaurant, sail and storage rooms, showers and locker room must remain closed.
- All boaters and persons on any marina property must maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times.
- Marinas can allow guests as determined by the security personnel at the marina.
- Maintenance personnel and fuel attendants are permitted to work on the marina property.
- There shall not be any gatherings of any kind either on vessels or on the docks, floats, ramps or slips while at vessels are at rest the marina excepting for minimally necessary time to prepare vessels for departure, to perform required maintenance, and all persons shall immediately depart from the marina when the use/repair of the vessel is completed.

2. While vessels navigate the waters of the Commonwealth or Town of Marshfield, vessels shall be prohibited from rafting or mooring up next to one another.

3. All other orders of the Governor and Board of Health shall remain in full force and effect.

4. In addition to the MA Department of Public Health and its agents and the State Police, the authorized agents of the Board of Health pursuant to G. L c. 1 11, 30 and the Marshfield Police are authorized to assist in the enforcement of this Order. Violation of the terms of this Order or Department of Public Health Guidance may result in a civil fine of up to $300 per violation, in the manner provided for non-criminal disposition of violations of municipal by-law, ordinance, rule, or regulation pursuant to G. L. c. 40, 21 D.

5. This Order is effective Friday, May 8, 2020 upon approval, and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the emergency is terminated by the Governor, whichever happens first.

SIGNED THIS 8th DAY OF MAY, 2020
Marshfield Board of Health

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COVID – 19 COMMAND CENTER
Update on Golf Courses

Are golf courses considered essential? **NO**

- Golf courses are not essential businesses and cannot have employees working on premise. Notwithstanding this restriction, essential services, such as grounds keeping to avoid hazardous conditions and security, provided by employees, contractors, or vendors are permitted.
- Private operators of golf courses may permit individuals access to the property so long as there are no gatherings of any kind, appropriate social distancing of six feet between individuals is strictly followed, and the business operator and golfers abide by the specific guidelines for golf courses outlined below.
- Municipalities may decide to open municipal courses under these guidelines, if they so choose.
- **The specific guidelines for golf courses are:**
    - Security personnel can be delineated by each club (ex. a pro and the head starter) and will be present to enforce social distancing. There can be no other employees working at the recreational component of the golf operation.
    - All staff must wear face coverings while on the property
    - Club facilities including but not limited to the club house, pro shop, restaurant, bag room and locker room must remain closed
    - No caddies allowed
    - No golf carts allowed
    - Push carts may be used. Players must either carry their own bag or use a push cart
    - All golfers must maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times
    - Groups of players are restricted to no more than 4 players at one time.
    - Members-only clubs can allow guests as determined by the security personnel on the golf course
    - Private clubs that allow non-members to make reservations can do so at their discretion
    - Maintenance personnel are permitted to work on the golf course
    - Tee Time Policy must be 15 minutes between groups
    - Golfers must stay in their car until 15 minutes before their tee time and must return to their car immediately following play
    - Online and remote payment options must be utilized
    - All golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs or rental golf clubs is not allowed.

- Flag sticks must remain in the hole. Hole liners must be raised so picking a ball out of the hole doesn't occur
- Bunker rakes must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered.
- Practice putting green, driving range, and chipping areas must be closed.
- Facilities must have readily accessible hand sanitizer

Governor Baker has issued an **Order** effective Wednesday, May 6 requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. Read the full DPH **Guidance**.

Tips on the Proper Use of Masks and Face Coverings

There are many things that you can do to help protect yourself and others from becoming infected with COVID-19. People who show no symptoms of illness may still be able to spread COVID-19. A face covering may help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to other people.

- A face covering can include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including dust masks, scarves and bandanas.
- Do not use health care worker masks, such as the N95 masks - those should be preserved for healthcare workers.
- It is important that you wear these face coverings or masks in situations where it is difficult to maintain a social distance of six feet from others. For example, in a pharmacy or grocery store.

When you wear a cloth mask, it should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

When putting on and taking off a mask, do not touch the front of it, you should only handle the ties or ear straps, and make sure you wash the cloth mask regularly. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after touching the mask.

Cloth masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Face Covering Do's and Don'ts and instructions on **how to make your own cloth mask** are available on the CDC web site.

In addition to wearing a cloth mask you should continue to practice proven methods to protect yourself.

- Practice social distancing at all times by remaining 6 feet away from others when you have to leave your home for essential trips.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoiding close contact with others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; using alcohol-based hand gel with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.

Daily update BOH
Update on Contact Tracing

On April 3, the Baker-Polito Administration announced an initiative to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts through contact tracing. Working with Partners in Health, Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to develop a program to trace individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as their immediate contacts who may have been exposed to the virus. Through a team of leading medical experts working with the Department of Public Health, this program has already hired 176 employees to do contact tracing by phone, and hundreds of additional staff will be trained and on board in the coming weeks.

Residents who receive a phone call from the Contact Tracing Collaborative are urged to take the call and provide the relevant information.

The Board of Health would like to remind residents not to inject or ingest disinfectants, bleach or rubbing alcohol.

May is Mental Health Month

Secretary Sudders, a social worker, and former Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health wants to alert residents on the importance of caring for our mental health

during the pandemic. From loneliness and situational depression resulting from isolation, anxiety from the fear of the illness, grief from losses, to worrying about economic security, these stresses are significant and can affect our mental well-being and that of our loved ones. Nearly half of Americans report that the coronavirus has had a negative impact on their mental health – as reported in an issue paper reported by the Kaiser family Foundation in April.

· If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others, **CALL2Talk** is a resource available through **2-1-1** line.

· In March, the Administration launched the Massachusetts Network of Care, a searchable behavioral health directory of services and organizations dedicated to helping preserve and protect your mental health.

· This website connects Massachusetts residents with information in multiple languages on behavioral health services and treatment in their communities – including more than 5,000 organizations – searchable by keywords and zip codes.

MARSHFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Tyler Nims, Chairman, Board of Health
Mark MacDonald, Vice-Chairman, Board of Health
Paul Armstrong, Member, Board of Health

The BOH has ensured that Local Supermarkets are following the directive to limit the number of people in each facility at one time. **Now it is time to do your part.** Plan your trip and try to shop alone. **Shopping is not a social event** and should only be done when it is time to get a proper supply of foods and essential items (resist the one item temptations, the Twinkies' can wait). The **workers** in these establishments are **essential personnel** and deserve our respect for their service. Please observe the social distancing of 6' from other shoppers and staff while they perform the tasks that provide us with the foods we need. Follow the arrows guiding traffic patterns as you go through the store. When standing in line outside the building social distances also applies.

Personal protective equipment, or **PPE:** protects its user against any physical harm or hazards that the environment may present **ONLY WHEN USED CORRECTLY!** People often get a false sense of security when using and forget.

- There is no substitute for proper hand washing/sanitizing and be mindful to do so before and after use.
- Understand how to use and remove the PPE. (improper use can do more harm than good)
- Please properly dispose of the PPE after use.

Buoy Health's new online resource: for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the next appropriate health care resource. This tool does not replace emergency medical care, but it may be used as a support for residents during the COVID-19 outbreak to connect them with appropriate health care resources if they display coronavirus symptoms. Buoy Health's online 24/7 tool is free for Massachusetts residents and uses current COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and DPH. As always, your first choice is to contact your own health care provider. Buoy's online tool is not to be used in place of emergency medical care. If this is an emergency, call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.
www.Buoy.com/mass

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1., a 24-hour telephone hotline, will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. **https://mass211.org/**

Additional updated information from MEMA on COVID-19:
https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency

DPW News

The Transfer Station is open to residents to drop off bulk items when purchasing a sticker. Residential Construction & Demolition (weigh and pay) debris is also now being accepted. Pot hole repairs will be ongoing beginning the week of May 4. Water leak repairs are ongoing, along with addressing drainage issues

General Information

I also want to remind residents that all recreational facilities in the Town of Marshfield are closed to the public except the beaches to protect the public from the further spread of COVID-19 to our residents. However a number of the beach parking lots are closed at this time.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Governor Baker announced yesterday, schools in Massachusetts, both public and private will be closed for the remainder of the academic year.

TREASURER COLLECTOR INFORMATION

Below you will find the necessary paper work to request a hardship waiver from the Town of Marshfield for real estate taxes, excise taxes and utility bills.

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-COLLECTOR
870 MORAINE STREET MARSHFIELD, MA 02050

COVID -19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVERS

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____
ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: _____
DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

PROOF OF HARDSHIP – PLEASE MARK "X":
UNEMPLOYMENT APPLICATION:
PROOF OF CLOSED BUSINESS:
MEDICAL WAIVER:

TYPE OF BILL (S) NEEDING RELIEF – PLEASE MARK "X"
REAL ESTATE TAXES:
EXCISE TAXES:
UTILTY BILLS:

BELOW SECTION IS FOR TOWN OF MARSHFIELD STAFF

APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED ON:_____

APPLICATION WAS APPROVED BY:_____

APPLCIATION WAS DENIED BY: _____

REASON:_____
_____

REQUESTED APPEAL TO TOWN ADMINISTRATOR BY PATRICK DELLORUSSO ON:_____

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-COLLECTOR

870 MORAINE STREET
MARSHFIELD MA 02050

FREQUENTLY ASKED COVID-19 QUESTIONS ANSWERED BELOW

Is there someone working today?

The Treasurer-Collector office has been open and responding to residents each day during the crisis and ensuring the Town has the resources it needs to provide safety and services. We will continue this mission.
You may always email questions to pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org this will get you a response very quickly.

BEST WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILLS:

- Please visit our website and select the "FIND IT FAST" option
- Next select online bill payments and enter your bill information
- If you do not have your bill information, please email pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org and the Treasurer will make sure you are responded to within 24 hours
- You may also call the main line at 781-834-5548 and someone will return your call within 24 hours as we have limited staff and they will guide you on how to make a payment online.
- You may mail in your payments with the remittance coupon to the lockbox provider.
- You may drop your payment off in the mail drop slot located near the handicap ramp at the front of Town Hall when you walk up from the parking lot. You may call for further instructions.
- You may also mail payments directly to our office at:

  870 Moraine Street, Marshfield MA, 02050 Attn: Collector

REAL ESTATE TAXES:

- The tax deadline for quarter four (4) real estate bills will not be changed from its dead line of May 1st.
- If a resident has been impacted by the COVID-19 virus they may like all other delinquent tax payers set up a re-payment plan with the Tax office.
- All payments must be current by 6-30-20 by vote of the Board of Selectman. Any payment not received by then will be subject to interest.
- If you do not notify the tax office of your inability to pay you will be assessed interest and fees in accordance with the Law.
- There will be no refunds of any interest or demands
  - You must show proof of your COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.

- The Town will be issuing demand and bills normally and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to show proof of hardship. **Demand bills will be issued 6-1-2020** to all accounts with a balance on record, and Tax liens will follow in line with normal collection action after this date.

UTILTY BILLS:

- The deadlines for the utilities bills are 30 days after issuance
- The Town of Marshfield in line with the Governor's Order will not be terminating utility services until an undetermined time after 6-30-2020.
- All balances must be current by 6-30-2020
- Failure to pay your bill will result in the utility charges being added to your tax bill as a utility lien next year while incurring interest and fees per MGL.
- There will be no refunds of any interest or demands
  - You must show proof of your COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.

- If you do not notify the tax office of your inability to pay you will be assessed interest and fees in accordance with the Law.
- If a resident has been impacted by the COVID-19 virus they may like all other delinquent tax payers set up a re-payment plan with the Tax office.
- The Town will be issuing demands and bills normally and it is the responsibility of the resident to show proof of a hardship.

EXCISE TAXES:

- Excise taxes will not be sent to collections until 6-30-2020; however interest will accrue on all delinquent balances and unless hardship is show, will not be waived.
- Excise taxes issued after 3-20-20 will not receive demands until 6-30-2020
- Marshfield Excise tax bills for commitment #1 were issued prior to the Declaration of emergency and are not subject to hardship waivers by law.
    - However Marshfield will if a resident is able to show proof of a COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.

The Treasurer's Office looks forward to remaining open for business and is here to help any resident who needs it and will remain fair and consistent while understanding the unique situations of all.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office for anything and we will get you the answers your looking for!!!1

Patrick D. Dello Russo JR.
Treasurer Collector
Town of Marshfield

Fire Department:

Anyone experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID – 19 such as difficulty breathing or chest pain should call 911 and activate EMS. Other minor symptoms, including a low grade fever, you should call your PCP for recommended treatment. Most cases with minor to moderate symptoms can be safely managed at home without going to the hospital. AS always, with any other medical emergencies, call 911 and activate EMS right away.

MOST IMPORTANTLY RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY BE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 VIRUS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU NEED TO CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) OF PERSONS WHO BECOME EXPOSED WILL BE ABLE TO MANAGE THEIR CARE ON THEIR OWN AND BY CONTACTING THEIR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

HERE ARE THE BOARD OF HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDICAL CARE:

Call **911** for **severe** shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) says do not wait for the results of a COVI-19 test to call

911.

Call a health care provider for shortness of breath or other serious symptoms. DPH says to continue to self-isolate if symptoms are becoming more severe.

For people with mild symptoms:

Early on, symptoms may feel like a common cold, including a combination of cough, body aches, fatigue, and chest tightness.

People who are not at high risk of severe illness may not need to be evaluated in-person or tested for COVID-19. Not everyone with symptoms or who may have been exposed to COVID-19 will be tested right away.

If you have mild symptoms including a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or suspect that you were exposed but are not able to be immediately tested, please stay home and avoid contact with others. Isolate yourself until:

* You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that's 3 days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)

  AND

* other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)

  AND

* At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Use over-the-counter medication to treat mild symptoms.

There is currently no specific treatment for COVID-19.

The 911 system is not intended for minor injuries or general medical questions. DPH says those seeking general advice or wishing to be tested for COVID-19 should not call 911.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1., a 24-hour telephone hotline, will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. **https://mass211.org/** and **www.Buoy.com/mass** for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the next appropriate health care resource

General Information:

Please remember to wear personal protective gear when out in the public. When you are through with the protective gear, please remember to properly dispose of them.

One final thought or suggestion! You might want to call and check on an elderly neighbor or family member to make sure they are okay. We know these are very difficult times, but remember to cherish each moment spent with loved ones.

Very truly yours,
Michael A. Maresco
Town Administrator

P.S. The pinnacle of the steeple on the top of Town Hall will be lit in red to recognize and thank our first responders.