



Town of

# Longmeadow, Massachusetts

20 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106



## Town of Longmeadow Update March 31, 2020 COVID-19 Coronavirus

Longmeadow officials are working hard to protect the health and safety of the residents. Updates will be provided as new information is available or when additional measures are put in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

On March 16, 2020, an announcement was made about closing town buildings to public access, including Storrs Library and the Council on Aging, through March 31. Today, Governor Baker announced an extension of the closure of non-essential businesses, and remote working functions of Executive Branch staff, these measures will remain in place until May 4, 2020. Town of Longmeadow municipal offices will follow the Governor's extension and town offices will remain closed to the public until May 4, 2020. Town staff are still available via telephone or email and a listing of virtual services is available at [www.longmeadow.org/virtualtownhall](http://www.longmeadow.org/virtualtownhall).

Beginning, Wednesday, April 1, 2020, the Department of Public Works leaf and yard waste area located on West Road will be open for residential use. The area will be open 7 days a week from 7am – 7pm. Residents must have a valid Recycling Center sticker to dispose of leaves and yard cleanup debris. Dropping off of grass clippings, tree trimmings, leaves and general spring yard cleanup will be self-serve and social distancing rules must be followed. Improper disposal of items, or failure to follow social distancing will result in the area being closed.

Trash amnesty will not be offered at this time. Blue pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) bags are available for purchase at Big Y, Armata's and CVS in Longmeadow, as well at Rocky's Ace Hardware in East Longmeadow. For individuals and families that may not be able to purchase bags from a local retailer, PAYT bags may be mailed to you (additional postage costs will be applied). If you'd like to receive PAYT bags via the mail, please contact the Department of Public Works directly at 413-567-3400. For seniors who are unable to leave the house, please contact the Adult Center directly at 413-565-4150.

The Meals on Wheels program and the Food Pantry are still operating. If you would like to speak with someone about the program, including signing up or volunteering please email [ekoebler@longmeadow.org](mailto:ekoebler@longmeadow.org) or call 413-565-4150, the Food Pantry will no longer have public hours, all pickups will be pre-arranged. If you would like to make a donation to the Food Pantry, please visit [www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus](http://www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus) for more information.

On, Friday, March 27, 2020, the Select Board voted to postpone to the Annual Town Meeting from the originally scheduled date of May 12, 2020 to a new date of June 23, 2020. The warrant for the meeting has not been posted yet, once the warrant has been posted booklets will be prepared and mailed to each residence. Discussions are continuing on postponing the Annual Town Election currently scheduled for June 16, 2020, as new information is available it will be shared.

The Local Board of Health has been working closely with the State Department of Public Health (DPH) to stay up-to-date on directives and initiatives to assist in responding to COVID-19. DPH has asked that local Boards of Health no longer release case specific data in individual cities and towns. DPH will continue to release numbers for each county and will be updated daily on the website <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19->

[cases-quarantine-and-monitoring](#). In anticipation of increasing cases in our town, the Board of Health has retained additional nursing services to assist with contact tracing and patient follow up.

In the early stages of this pandemic, the Longmeadow Emergency Management Director submitted a request for supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), the order was delivered last week. That order, coupled with the donations of generous residents, has positioned our first responders well in having the necessary PPE to safely respond to calls. However, additional supplies will be needed as our first responders continue to respond to calls. If you have a donation of PPE, please email [LEMD@longmeadow.org](mailto:LEMD@longmeadow.org) to make arrangements to drop off these much needed supplies.

Construction on the new DPW facility on Dwight Road and the new Adult Center on Maple Road continues. Construction projects are designated as essential work by [Governor Baker](#). Both sites have instituted additional safety measures and are following requirements in the Governor's letter.

Last week town play structures, tennis courts and basketball courts were closed to reinforce social distancing. Parks and playing fields remain open but no organized activities with 10 or more people will be allowed. Signage on social distancing was placed at parks and facilities and by using electronic message boards at prominent locations. Residents may access town fields as long as there are no group activities and people maintain at least a 6-foot distance from others.

Town officials continue to urge residents to stay at home and follow social distancing measures, if you do need to leave your house. Don't hang out in groups, stay 6 feet apart from one another, don't hug or shake hands, and don't share food or drinks. The best thing you can do is stay home and wash your hands. It is vitally important for residents to stop congregating outside, stop group play and team sports at parks and to take critical public safety messages seriously.

If you have a concern, are concerned about a neighbor, or need additional information related to COVID-19 please email [LEMD@longmeadow.org](mailto:LEMD@longmeadow.org) or visit [www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus](http://www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus).