



Town of

# Longmeadow, Massachusetts

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## Town of Longmeadow Update COVID-19 Coronavirus April 10, 2020

Updates on the Town of Longmeadow response to COVID-19 coronavirus will continue to be posted on [www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus](http://www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus). Please regularly check that website for up-to-date information, you will also find copies of all updates that have been released.

This week, the Department of Public Health (DPH) released further guidance to promote social distancing at grocery stores. The new guidance requires that each grocery store limit occupancy to 40% of its maximum permitted occupancy level (except stores with a maximum occupancy of less than 25 people). It also sets out procedures by which staff should monitor occupancy levels. The guidance builds on a previous March 23 order for grocery stores, which set out policies for ensuring access to handwashing facilities and protecting employees in higher-risk populations, and providing alternate hours at least one hour every day for adults 60 years and older. The Town's Health Director and Emergency Management Team have been working closely with our grocery stores, convenience stores and pharmacies to ensure they are following the enhanced guidance and have plans in place to protect staff and customers.

Additionally, on Wednesday, the State's COVID-19 Command Center announced a new Nursing Home Family Resource Line, a dedicated telephone line that will connect family members of nursing home and rest home residents with the information and resources they need. Families and community members can call the line at (617) 660- 5399.

Governor Baker announced the expansion of SafeLink, the Commonwealth's statewide, 24/7, toll-free and confidential hotline which provides resources and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. By calling (877) 785-2020 victims can receive crisis intervention support and safety planning measures for both themselves and their families. If you are experiencing violence within your home or if you are concerned about a loved one that may be experiencing violence, please call the SafeLink hotline for assistance. If you are in immediate danger, please call 9-1-1. Additional information on domestic abuse can be found on the Longmeadow Police Department's website @ [longmeadowpolice.com](http://longmeadowpolice.com)

Last week, we began releasing COVID-19 coronavirus case count information for Town of Longmeadow specific cases. After reviewing the data, and upon guidance from MDPH, we have decided to suspend our daily case count updates. The accuracy of the data and the timeliness of reporting has made the information unreliable. Until such time that the data can be more accurately updated we will not be posting case counts. The numbers are interesting, but it doesn't change what is needed from the community at this time. The best thing the public can do is stay home, and if you do need to leave your house, practice social distancing. The Centers for Disease Control also recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. 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.

The current modeling on the surge of coronavirus cases in our community projects our peak to be April 20, and we are not expected to be at today's numbers again until May 18. It is critical that residents continue practicing social distancing, even as the nicer weather approaches. We all must take personal responsibility and follow the guidance of our health officials.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be announcing additional measures to help ease the impact of this pandemic, including the possibility delaying 4th quarter tax due date and waiving interest charges. More detailed information on that will be available soon. Also, we are making plans to partially open the recycling center by early May, however, in order to do that we have to ensure the safety of our employees and residents who work at and use the center. Stay tuned for more information on that in the coming weeks.

This can't be stressed enough and bears repeating, 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 frequently. 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).

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