



Town of

Longmeadow, Massachusetts

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Town of Longmeadow Update COVID-19 Coronavirus

Reminder on Masking and Social Distancing, New State Data Tool on Community Cases, Follow State Orders on Travel, Council on Aging to Remain Closed until New Building is Completed, Greenwood Daycare to Remain Closed

Town officials are observing and receiving an increasing number of calls about group gatherings and residents not wearing masks or adhering to social distancing. Effective Tuesday, August 11 is a revised order issued by Governor Baker on Friday, August 7, 2020 postponing Step two of the Phase III reopening plan and a reduction in the size of group gatherings. Outdoor gatherings have been reduced from 100 people to 50 people (indoor gatherings remain at 25 people). These limits are applied to all types of gatherings on both public and private property. Face coverings are required where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing. Guidance on COVID-19 matters changes almost daily, refer to www.mass.gov for the most up-to-date information.

Town playgrounds and basketball courts remain open. However, we are closely monitoring the use of basketball courts to make sure that use of the courts are done in a safe manner. If large groups gather, masks are not worn, and social distancing is not exercised the courts will be closed. Residents using play structures should wash hands frequently and follow social distancing protocols of wearing masks and/or maintaining six foot distance from non-household members. The Town will not be sanitizing equipment and surfaces between uses.

Over the past 7 weeks we have watched our community COVID-19 case numbers fluctuate. On June 22, 2020 at the time of the last town-wide COVID-19 update our positive community case number was two. As of today we have 7 positive COVID-19 community cases. These cases have been directly attributed to travel and the outbreak at Baystate Medical Center. Today, Governor Baker announced a new data tool for reporting on city and town community cases to provide an enhanced way for residents to be aware of the scope of cases in the community. A link to this new data tool has been established on the Town's COVID-19 website, [here](#). All community members need to stay vigilant and be aware that COVID-19 still is in our community. Strict adherence to the Commonwealth's Travel Order must be followed to help prevent the spread in our community.

The Longmeadow Public Schools will be starting the 2020/2021 school year on September 14, 2020, for specific information on the LPS reopening plans visit <https://www.longmeadow.k12.ma.us/covid-19>.

The Adult Center/Council on Aging will remain closed to programming until the new facility is completed. This decision, although not an easy one, will allow town staff to invest their time and resources into packing up the old facility and preparing for a move and reopening to the new facility later this year. The Adult Center/Council on Aging will continue to offer virtual programming, Meals on Wheels services and the Food

Pantry. For specific information or to reach out for services visit <https://www.longmeadow.org/149/Adult-Center> or call (413) 565-4150.

After a lengthy review of the COVID-19 guidance for daycares we have made the decision that it is not feasible to reopen Greenwood Daycare this fall. The reduced capacity, segregated classroom staff, and cleaning protocols make it cost prohibitive for the town to open the daycare under these requirements.

The Parks & Recreation Department is evaluating fall programming options to determine what may be offered that would meet the health and safety guidelines while also maintaining the standard of programming they are committed to offering. More information on fall Parks & Recreation programming will be available soon.

Community members are strongly encouraged to continue to follow all health and safety measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19. For more information visit www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus.
