

## **MOST RECENT COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN**

### **June 1, 2020 - Executive Order Issued in Advance of Phase II of Reopening Massachusetts**

Today, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order that provides a detailed list of businesses and activities that fall into Phases II, III, and IV of the Commonwealth's Re-Opening Plan. The Order also permits all Phase II enterprises, including retail, to begin preparations to safely resume operation in advance of the start of the second phase. In addition to the retail sector, the Executive Order details further requirements for the safe resumption of amateur youth and adult sports and outdoor dining.

Effective immediately, the Executive Order permits Phase II businesses to reopen their physical workplaces to workers only to conduct necessary preparations prior to the start of Phase II. Preparations include but are not limited to completing a COVID-19 Control Plan, implementing sector-specific protocols, and complying with Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards.

- For Reopening Phase II Executive Order, [click here](#).
- For Childcare Provider Reopening Order, [click here](#).

### [VIEW UPDATED LIST OF ENTERPRISES IN PHASES II, III, and IV](#)

**Retailers:** Retail stores will transition from curbside pickup and delivery-only to browsing and in-store transactions with restrictions at the start of Phase II.

Social distancing guidance requires each retail store to monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to either 8 persons (including store staff) per 1,000 square feet of accessible, indoor space, or 40% of the retail store's maximum permitted occupancy, whichever is greater.

Grocery stores and retail stores with pharmacy services must provide at least one hour of dedicated time for adults 60 years of age and older, while all stores are encouraged to offer exclusive hours or other accommodations for high-risk populations. For staffing, stores should adjust workplace hours and shifts, including leveraging staggered arrival / departure, to minimize contact across workers and to allow for on-going and off-hour sanitation and cleaning. Stores should also conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces.

Operators of enclosed shopping malls and other indoor, multi-tenant retail spaces must monitor customer and worker entries and exits to common areas and limit occupancy of common areas at all times to 40% of maximum permitted occupancy levels. Mall amenities like seating in food courts, children's play areas, and arcades must remain closed, while mall food vendors and restaurants may only provide take-out or delivery service.

Once Phase II begins, these standards will apply to all retail businesses except for Farmers' Markets, which shall continue to be governed by Department of Public Health guidance. These standards will supersede and replace existing Department of Public Health guidance governing grocery stores and pharmacies.

Retailers that have been defined as providing Essential Services pursuant to COVID-19 Order No. 13 will be required to comply with these sector-specific safety protocols within one week of the date that Retailers are authorized to open pursuant to the Governor's Phase II Reopening Order. [For full retail business guidance, click here.](#)

**Sports:** The Order also allows organizers of amateur sports programs for youths and adults to open their premises to staff only to make preparations in advance of the start of Phase II. In addition to requiring generally applicable COVID-19 workplace standards, the Order specifies that during Phase II organized sports programs will operate under the following provisions:

- Limiting traditional contact sports to no-contact drills and practices;
- Prohibiting games, scrimmages, and tournaments;
- Separating participants into groups of 10 or less;
- Restricting the use of indoor athletic facilities to supervised sports programs and sport camps for youths under the age of 18.

Further sector-specific guidance for youth and adult amateur sports programs will be issued in the coming days. Subject to the implementation of COVID-19 health and safety rules adopted by respective leagues, this Order permits professional sports organizations to reopen their premises to employees and other workers for practices and training; however, professional sports organizations are not allowed to engage in inter-team games and sporting facilities will remain closed to the public.

**Restaurants:** Lastly, the Order permits restaurants to provide outdoor dining service with restrictions upon the start of Phase II; providing continued positive progression of public health data, indoor dining may be authorized by a subsequent order during Phase II. In order to provide improved opportunities for outdoor table service, the order also provides flexibility to a local licensing authority to grant approval for a change for any type of license that permits the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. In both outdoor and indoor dining cases, restaurants will be required to comply with sector-specific COVID-19 workplace safety rules for restaurants.

### **May 29, 2020 – Governor Baker releases Phase 2 Guidance for Restaurants and Lodgings.**

Mandatory safety standards and recommended best practices for Restaurants and Lodgings which are scheduled to open in Phase 2. [Sector-specific Protocols and Best Practices.](#) Guidance with Checklist in pdf form: [Restaurants](#) [Lodgings](#)

### **May 29, 2020 – Cape Cod Reopening Task Force Information** <https://www.reopeningcapecod.org/>

### **May 28, 2020 - Nationwide Unemployment Scam Targets Massachusetts Claimants**

Criminal enterprises in possession of stolen personal information from earlier national data breaches have been attempting to file large amounts of illegitimate unemployment claims through the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) system. This is part of a national unemployment fraud scheme.

The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has begun implementing additional identity verification measures that will temporarily delay the payment timeframe for many unemployment claims in Massachusetts. As a result of these

measures, certain unemployment claimants may be asked to provide additional identity information in order to verify the validity of their claim.

“Protecting the integrity of the unemployment system and ensuring benefits are going only to valid claimants is the top priority of the Department of Unemployment Assistance,” said Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta. “While the program integrity measures we are taking will unfortunately mean that some claimants will experience temporary delays in payment, we believe these steps are necessary to respond to this unemployment scam. We are working rapidly to respond to this scheme and urge individuals who may have had a false unemployment claim filed in their name to contact the Department.”

Individuals who believe they may have had a false unemployment claim filed using their identity are urged to utilize the Department of Unemployment Assistance fraud contact form at [mass.gov/unemployment-fraud](https://mass.gov/unemployment-fraud) or to call the DUA customer service department at [877-626-6800](tel:877-626-6800).

### **May 28, 2020 - Disaster Recovery Information**

On March 27, the President [declared](#) a Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through this declaration, federal aid will be made available to cities and towns, state agencies, and certain non-profits in all Massachusetts counties to help pay for emergency protective measures (response costs) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. MEMA’s Recovery Unit has developed a [webpage](#) with information and guidance on, but not limited to, disaster declaration, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

### **May 22, 2020 - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation**

Massachusetts residents who are eligible for the federal CARES Act and qualify for having exhausted their regular unemployment compensation may now receive the new Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). The launch of this program marks the third and final benefit available for the Commonwealth through the CARES Act.

PEUC provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits to an individual who has exhausted all rights to any regular unemployment compensation and who meets other eligibility requirements of the CARES Act. PEUC will automatically begin for individuals who have been receiving regular standard unemployment benefits on an active claim and those benefits are exhausted, and those individuals do not have to take any further action.

If an individual’s standard unemployment claim has expired, they must file a new standard claim. If the individual is monetarily eligible on the new standard claim, regardless of the benefit rate amount, they will receive benefits from that new claim. Otherwise, the individual will be eligible for PEUC on the prior claim and it will be automatically implemented. The state needs to “make sure we have domestic ability to manufacture and distribute” personal protective equipment and testing materials” –

Individuals who exhausted their standard benefits but were receiving benefits through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) must apply to claim weekly benefits. Residents should apply through the standard [unemployment benefits portal available here](#).

Those receiving PEUC will also receive \$600 weekly through the week ending July 25, 2020, provided by the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program established by the CARES Act.

The CARES Act signed into law on March 27, 2020, established the PEUC, PUA and FPUC public benefit programs that expanded unemployment eligibility, temporarily increases weekly benefits for all claimants and allows additional categories of people to claim unemployment benefits. This is the largest expansion of assistance for the Commonwealth's workforce since the Great Depression.

More information about Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation can be found at [www.mass.gov/peuc](http://www.mass.gov/peuc).

### **May 22, 2020 - Cape Cod Covid-19 Data Dashboard**

The Cape Cod Commission created the [Cape Cod COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to provide demographic and economic data for Cape Cod towns, non-profit organizations, and businesses recovering from the economic impacts of COVID-19. The dashboards include regional and town data (when available) on population demographics, unemployment trends, rooms and meals tax revenues, employment, housing, and seasonality.

### **May 22, 2020 – Cape Cod Businesses: COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey**

Cape Cod Commission and Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce seek to better understand local businesses' needs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has caused severe economic distress in our community, and this survey can help us quantify the extent and timing of these impacts in anticipation of potential solutions and grant opportunities. [Business Economic Impact Survey](#) Survey results will be anonymous and shared only in aggregated formats. If you own more than one business, please fill out individual surveys for each business.

### **May 21, 2020 - Have a question about Reopening Massachusetts?**

You can submit your questions and comments about the phased reopening effort by visiting the Reopening Massachusetts website. ([Submit your questions here.](#))

### **May 20, 2020 – Retail Uses Reopening Guidance from the State**

According to the most recent Governor's Guidance, retail in Phase 1 starting on May 25, 2020 is limited to **remote fulfillment and curbside pickup only**. Phase 2 (undetermined timeframe) may allow inside browsing with some restrictions which are not yet available from the State. Retail establishments are reminded that outdoor displays are only permitted with prior Zoning approval. The Town will be enforcing these regulations.

### **May 20, 2020 – Vendor List for Workplace PPEs**

Among the many resources on the [Reopening Massachusetts](#) website is a section that provides employers and employees information on supplies needed to return to workplaces. The site also includes a sortable [list of vendors that can supply the materials](#) needed during all phases of the reopening.

### **May 18, 2020 – Massachusetts Reopening Plan [Governor Baker's Phased Reopening Plan Report](#)**

**New Sectors opening on May 18:** Upon implementing new COVID-19 safety standards and completing a self-attestation checklist, Manufacturing & Construction and Places of Worship are permitted to reopen on Monday, May 18 under the following protocols:

[Manufacturing & Construction Houses/Places of Worship](#)

Each business or House of Worship will be required to meet the Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards linked above before reopening. Additionally, each industry also has a series of Sector Specific Protocols, that detail the policies workplaces should enforce to maintain compliance.

**New Sectors opening on May 25:** Office space at 25% occupancy, limited personal services like hair and pet grooming, and remote fulfillment and curbside pickup retail.

[Four Phased Approach Website Page](#)  
[Guidance for Businesses on the Reopening Plan](#)

### **May 18, 2020 – Essential Services NEW Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards**

Businesses that have operated during the closure because they offer “essential services” will continue to do so throughout the phased reopening. However, they will be required to meet **NEW Mandatory Workplace Safety standards** by Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, including:

- **COVID-19 control plan template** – Template that satisfies the written control plan requirement for self-certification
- **Compliance attestation poster** – Poster that customer facing businesses are required to print, sign, and post in an area within the business premises that is visible to workers and visitors
- **Employer and Worker posters** – Posters that businesses can print and display within the business premises to describe the rules for maintaining social distancing, hygiene protocols, and cleaning and disinfecting

### **May 14, 2020 - Expanded Testing Criteria:**

The State Department of Public Health (DPH) issued updated guidance about the appropriate use of laboratory testing for COVID-19 and expanded testing recommendations in clinical and commercial laboratories. The new guidance expands the criteria for COVID-19 testing eligibility.

Updated guidelines recommend the following:

All symptomatic individuals, including those with mild symptoms, should be tested.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- o Fever, chills or shaking chills
- o Signs of a lower respiratory illness
- o Fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches or new loss of sense of taste or smell
- o Other less common symptoms can include gastrointestinal symptoms and inflammatory conditions

o In elderly, chronically ill or debilitated individuals, symptoms of COVID-19 may be subtle, including alterations in mental status or in blood glucose control

All individuals who are identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 confirmed case by a local board of health, DPH, the Community Tracing Collaborative or a healthcare provider should be tested. [Read the guidance here.](#)

### **May 13, 2020 - Memorial Day Message from the Provincetown Town Manager**

Provincetown realizes that our attraction is undeniable, especially as the weather starts to warm up. But please understand that Provincetown is still adhering to the Governor's Stay-at-home Advisory and therefore we are not prepared to start our summer quite yet. Memorial Day Weekend is right around the corner, but the Governor has yet to provide the community with any concrete guidance on which parts of our economy we can open. Please understand that until such time as we have a solid re-opening plan, the Town is unable to accommodate our normal summer crush of visitors.

Provincetown is not open for business as usual and will unlikely be able to pivot to do that by Memorial Day Weekend.

Provincetown continues to maintain essential business activities and services only until we get the clearance by Governor Baker and until such time that our community can agree on a safe path forward.

- Please consider postponing any non-essential travel.
- Our parking lots are limited for Provincetown permit holders and those accessing essential services only. Capacity in our lots may be reduced to accomplish the Town's social distancing goals.
- Neighborhood resident permit parking restrictions are in place. There is no parking on Commercial Street between Johnson Street and Winthrop Street.
- If you own a home here or must travel, please respect our social distancing measures and wear a mask when in public and unable to social distance, or anytime when you are on Commercial Street from Bangs Street to Pleasant Street between 9am and 9pm. Maintain 6 feet separation and avoid gather in crowds of non-family members.
- If you are coming from out of state, please bring the necessary food, prescriptions, and personal supplies to enable your 14-day quarantine. Reach out to our social services agencies if you need assistance with this.
- Avoid coming if you are experience flu-like symptoms.

We ask for your patience while we all try to remain safe until we can open our doors and welcome you as in the past. With your help, we can recover from this virus and these challenging economic times. We look forward to welcoming you back. Thank you for supporting this place that we all love by respecting this guidance.

### **May 13, 2020 – Water Department COVID-19 Operations FAQ**

Provincetown Water Department has created a frequently asked questions page on the town website regarding the department's operating policies during Covid-19. <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/1342/Water-Department-Operations-During-COVID>

**May 11, 2020 – Governor Baker Announced Four-Phased Approach to Reopening the Massachusetts Economy.** The Massachusetts economy will be reopened using a four-phase approach, based on public health guidance. Businesses and activities with a lower risk of COVID-19 transmission will open in earlier phases. Public health metrics will determine when the first phase of reopening begins, as well as when it is safe to move into later phases. If public health metrics worsen, the state may need to return to an earlier phase. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-four-phase-approach>

**May 11, 2020 - Provincetown Recovery Coalition Announces [Results of Its Business Survey](#).** The Provincetown Recovery Coalition's Business Group recently surveyed 500 businesses in Provincetown to identify support for new working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the summer season approaches, it was clear from the respondents that utilizing safety measures such as social distancing, enhanced sanitation, PPE & masks, and contactless payment was the top priority. The business sectors reached by the survey include retail stores, galleries, lodging, restaurants, salons/spas, realtors, financial services, entertainment venues, bars and transportation companies.

**May 8, 2020 – Cape Cod Reopening Task Force also accepting Comments**  
Task Force Launched to Reopen Cape Cod Safely

A region-wide task force has been assembled to develop strategies for reopening Cape Cod once it is safe to do so. The Cape Cod Reopening Task Force is led by the Cape & Islands Legislative Delegation, the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, and Barnstable County, with participation from Cape Cod Healthcare, municipal officials, first responders, community leaders, and others.

The goal of the Task Force is to pursue a safe and structured approach to reopening commercial and social activities on Cape Cod. Through its work, the Task Force will coordinate authorities and entities across Cape Cod to provide one consistent message to the region's year-round residents, seasonal residents, second home-owners, summer workers, and visitors; such coordination will both advance public health and promote economic vitality when we are able to reopen.

The Cape Cod Reopening Task Force will work to compile and disseminate guidelines for businesses, workers, residents, and visitors. Forthcoming guidance from the Task Force will align with recommendations from the Governor's Reopening Advisory Board, advisories from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Executive Orders from Governor Baker. The work of the Task Force will be done in consultation with the Baker-Polito Administration. The Task Force reiterates that Governor Baker, the Governor's

Reopening Advisory Board, and guidance from public health experts will dictate the timeline of reopening on Cape Cod.

The public is invited to submit comments to the Task Force. Comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration as the Task Force develops a reopening report. [Comments can be submitted online here](#)

#### **May 4, 2020 - Community-Wide Social Service Survey**

**The Provincetown Recovery Coalition [Announces Community-Wide Social Services Survey](#).** The goal is to understand the community's thoughts and needs to provide direction to the coalition, the select board, and town government. [Link to the Survey](#)

#### **May 4, 2020 - Provincetown's Mask Order**

Provincetown Select Board voted on May 4, 2020 to adopt the [Governor's Face Covering Order](#) and add "any member of the public not covered under the Governor's Order utilizing Commercial Street from Bangs Street to Pleasant Street between 9 am and 9 pm must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth and must exercise social distancing in accordance with the CDC guidelines and shall remain in effect until rescinded." [CDC Guidance on proper use of face coverings and how to make your own.](#)

#### **May 4, 2020 – Provincetown Council on Aging provides a resource list for seniors [SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS](#)**

#### **May 1, 2020 – Governor issues Face Covering Order**

Effective Wednesday, May 6, 2020, any person over age two who is in a place open to the public in the Commonwealth, whether indoor or outdoor, and is unable to or does not maintain a distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering, except where a person is unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition or the person is otherwise exempted by Department of Public Health guidance. [See full Order](#)

#### **May 1, 2020 – Free Grocery Delivery Service Launches for Barnstable County Seniors and Residents at Higher Risk.**

The Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps' Delivery Service will help people who should stay home receive groceries and critical household goods. [See announcement.](#)

#### **May 1, 2020 – Guidance to Returning Second Homeowners**

Barnstable County along with several elected officials and the organizations that make up the County's medical system have issued [Guidance to the Cape and Islands Seasonal Community](#) members who are returning to their seasonal homes during the Covid-19 medical crisis.

#### **May 1, 2020 – Reopening Toolkit Resources for Businesses and Non-Profits**

The **Reopening Toolkit** is an effort by the Cape Cod & Islands SCORE mentors to provide the best thinking on how you can take steps now to help your business survive

and prosper. We don't know what that looks like for your business, but we're prepared to help you think it through. SCORE mentors are available to assist you in this critical recovery period. [SMALL BUSINESS TOOLKIT](#) [NON-PROFIT TOOLKIT](#)

### **April 30, 2020 – Update from the Town Manager on Parking**

Provincetown is still adhering to the Governor's Stay-at-home Advisory and therefore our parking lots are limited for Provincetown permit holders and those accessing essential services only. Provincetown is not open for business as usual. We have delayed paid public parking in our lots until June 1. Capacity in our lots may be reduced to accomplish the Town's social distancing goals. Neighborhood resident permit parking restrictions are in place. There is no parking on Commercial Street between Johnson Street and Winthrop Street.

### **April 30, 2020 - The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program (PUA).**

This program was created to help workers who don't fit into a category that would make them eligible for traditional unemployment benefits.

That includes people like independent contractors, the self-employed, and workers who participate in the gig economy. The federal government enacted the PUA program with the passage of the CARES Act, but left it to the states to implement.

Massachusetts was one of the first states to successfully launch the program and start paying claimants.

So far, the system has seen well over 100,000 applications. And as of today, nearly half a billion dollars in benefits to people who have applied. These benefits include an extra \$600 per week, part of another federal CARES Act benefit that we implemented. The PUA program also has a robust customer service component, including a call center and an online "chat bot" that helps people through common issues on the application process.

In just over a week, that PUA call center has connected with nearly 80,000 constituents over the phone, and the online help tool has helped resolve over 200,000 individual issues with people's applications. The administration will continue to pay out benefits for workers who don't qualify for traditional unemployment through the PUA program. You can learn more about this program at [www.mass.gov/pua](http://www.mass.gov/pua).

### **April 30, 2020 – State Advisory on Face Coverings**

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/advisory-regarding-face-coverings-and-cloth-masks-april-10-2020-pdf/download>

### **April 28, 2020 – Governor Extends Stay-at-Home Advisory till May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Baker-Polito Administration extends non-essential business closures to May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Gatherings of 10 or more prohibited until May 18<sup>th</sup>, Stay-at-Home Advisory remains in effect. [Press Release](#)

### **April 28, 2020 – Select Board Approve Order to Requiring Wearing of Masks**

The Provincetown Select Board implemented an Emergency Nuisance Order requiring the use of masks to reduce risk of the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) when entering or working inside businesses and outside in public places including Commercial Street from Bangs

to Pleasant Streets, which is roughly defined as the Town Center Commercial District. The Order takes effect Friday, May 1, 2020 and will remain in place until further notice.

The Provincetown Select Board voted, effective Friday, May 1st, to require all persons to wear masks when entering or working in enclosed spaces that are open to the public such as grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, etc. This also includes restaurants when picking up take-out and common areas of residential or commercial complexes with multiple units. The Order also applies to any person not within an enclosed vehicle on Commercial Street between Bangs Street and Pleasant Street (roughly defined as the Town Center Commercial District). The Order requires town businesses to post the Order at their entrance and to enforce the mask coverings within their establishment.

**The Order regarding inside spaces:** masks need to be worn when entering or working in enclosed spaces that are open to the public such as grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, restaurants (when picking up take-out) and common areas of residential or commercial complexes with multiple units. The Order requires town businesses to post the Order at their entrance and to enforce the mask coverings within their establishment.

**Public Outdoor Spaces:** as for wearing masks in public, the Order states that masks must be worn in Public Spaces including Commercial Street between Bangs and Pleasant Street. This part of the order applies to *any person not within an enclosed vehicle* on Commercial Street between Bangs Street and Pleasant Street.

The purpose is to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect your own health and the health of others. It has been documented that transmission of the virus can easily occur before someone is symptomatic and also many people unknowingly carry the virus without ever becoming ill. The virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. Thus, face coverings in public settings and where the public cannot appropriately social distance will help reduce the risk of spreading the virus to other people.

[CDC Guidance on proper use of masks and how to make your own.](#)

The Town of Provincetown has a dedicated COVID-19 webpage with additional links, resources and guidance: <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=944>

For more information, contact the Town of Provincetown at 508-413-9600.

## **April 27, 2020 - SBA Resumes Accepting PPP Applications**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will accept applications for the second round of funding of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) from lenders beginning Monday, April 27th at 10:30 am. It is critically important that small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic work with their lender to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program as soon as possible.

Businesses can access the SBA's Find A Lender tool at <https://www.sba.gov/paycheckprotection/find>. Additionally, using SBA data, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development has published [this list](https://www.mass.gov/doc/ppp-eligible-lenders-and-first-round-participants-sba-data) (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/ppp-eligible-lenders-and-first-round-participants-sba-data>) of institutions that provided loans to Massachusetts companies in the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program. The list also includes all entities that appeared on the [SBA's approved lenders list](#), which was last updated on April 13, 2020.

Any small businesses in need of application translation services or other technical assistance should access Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation's

online resources, including a list of technical assistance providers who can help businesses apply for PPP in languages other than English:  
<https://empoweringsmallbusiness.org/resources/covid-19-small-business-resources>

#### **April 27, 2020 – Update on Resources for Parents**

**[COVID-19: What Parents Need To Know](#)** (CBC1651) guides parents in supporting their family's health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on CDC guidelines, pamphlet:

- offers an overview of the virus
- explains risks to both adults and children
- prompts readers to create a household plan of action.

Also addresses everyday concerns, discusses pregnancy and breastfeeding issues, and encourages prevention measures, such as hygiene and social distancing. A valuable quick-reference resource for families.

**[COVID-19: A Guide For Talking To Your Children](#)** (CBC1650) helps parents discuss the COVID-19 virus with their children, focusing on providing reassurance while encouraging good hygiene and other germ-prevention habits. Based on CDC guidelines, pamphlet:

- provides an overview of COVID-19
- offers ways to approach the subject with children of various ages
- urges parents to answer questions honestly and accurately.

An important resource that families can keep and reference as needed.

#### **April 27, 2020 – State Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures**

On Monday, April 20th, Governor Baker signed new legislation, effective immediately, that imposes a moratorium on “non-essential” evictions, and certain mortgage foreclosures, during the current State of Emergency. This much-anticipated legislation will have a significant impact upon local Housing Authorities and any other municipal entities that serve as landlords. The link to the Bill can be found here:

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4647>

KP Law, Town Counsel for the Town of Provincetown, has summarized relevant provisions of this new legislation, Chapter 65 of the Acts of 2020, “An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID-19 Emergency” (Act), in [an eUpdate which can be found here](#).

#### **April 21, 2020 – Update from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Provincetown Town Manager Robin Craver has formed the Provincetown Recovery Coalition, whose mission is to engage representative stakeholders of the major sectors of the community to advise in the development of plans that will facilitate the operation of the town and its businesses to serve residents and visitors while maintaining the health and safety of everyone during the summer and fall of 2020.

The Coalition will meet to set and address immediate, short term and long term goals on how to move the town and the business community forward through the next phases of the crisis.

The stakeholder sectors and participating individuals include:

#### Public Health/Science

- Steve Katsurinis, Board of Health Chair
- Morgan Clark, Health Director
- Dr. Andrew Jorgensen, Chief Medical Officer, Outer Cape Health

#### Public Safety, Emergency Management & Transportation

- James Golden, Police Chief
- Eric Sussman, Emergency Management/Transportation Coordinator

#### Tourism & General Business

- Anthony Fuccillo, Tourism Director
- Robert Sanborn, Provincetown Business Guild
- Patrick Patrick, Provincetown Chamber of Commerce
- Rick Murray, Community Business Leader

#### Social Services

- Gwynne Guzzeau, Executive Director, Helping Our Women
- Dan Gates, President & CEO, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod

#### Town Government

- David Abramson, Chair, Select Board
- Robert Anthony, Vice Chair, Select Board
- Robin Craver, Town Manager
- David Gardner, Asst. Town Manager/Community Development Director
- Josse Young, Asst. Town Manager, Finance Director

#### Recovery Coalition Support

- Leslie Sandberg, Public Communications/Relations
- Earl Hinton, Facilitator

Stakeholders from each sector will convene with their larger groups of constituent members to assist them in developing the plans and understanding the impacts on their respective sectors. These discussions and reactions will then be reflected back to the Recovery Coalition to be incorporated into the planning process.

The Coalition is looking to recommend policies and orders that could be enacted by the Town through the Select Board, Board of Health, Licensing Board, Pier Corporation or Airport Commission, and policies that could be recommended to the Governor and State Representatives, where applicable.

They will also be looking to develop operational plans that would be broadly supported to ensure that we can maintain the effectiveness of public health and public safety while permitting residents and businesses to function as freely as possible. We expect to establish metrics to determine the impact of the plans and make corrections as necessary.

The public can provide input directly to the Recovery Coalition by emailing [coalition@provincetown-ma.gov](mailto:coalition@provincetown-ma.gov).

**April 21, 2020 – Update on Unemployment Benefits for the Self-Employed**

CARES Act Unemployment Benefits For Self-Employed, Gig Economy, and Other Workers ([News Release](#)) Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits can now apply online for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program.

The new federal PUA program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to those who are unable to work because of a COVID-19-related reason but are not eligible for regular or extended unemployment benefits. This includes self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and those with limited work history. Applicants can learn more and apply at [www.mass.gov/pua](http://www.mass.gov/pua).

To be eligible for this new program, individuals must provide self-certification that they are otherwise able and available to work but are prevented from doing so by circumstances relating to COVID-19, including their own illness or that of a family member.

Those able to telework with pay and individuals receiving paid sick or other leave will not qualify for PUA. Individuals receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits for less than their customary work week, however, may still be eligible for PUA. Also, those working fewer hours, resulting in a loss of income due to COVID-19, who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits may be eligible for PUA.

The federal CARES Act signed into law on March 27 created PUA, as well as another temporary federal program called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) that provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit for those receiving unemployment benefits or PUA. FPUC provides that additional benefit through July 25, 2020. The Commonwealth [announced implementation of FPUC earlier this month](#).

All approved PUA applications will initially receive the minimum weekly benefit amount, plus the additional \$600 FPUC weekly benefit. Once a worker's wages are verified, weekly benefit amounts may increase. The amount of PUA benefits received is based on the individual's reported previous income. PUA benefits may not be more than the state's maximum weekly benefit rate for regular unemployment, which is \$823 in Massachusetts.

Weekly benefits, including any increase to your weekly benefit amount, will be retroactive to January 27, 2020, or the date when you became unemployed, whichever is more recent, as long as you became unable to work because of a COVID-19 related reason.

#### **April 21, 2020 – Update on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment - Gloves**

Health experts suggest the use of gloves is not recommended personal protective equipment for the average person performing everyday tasks. The preferred method of protection remains frequent handwashing, as well as social distancing, or wearing a mask when social distancing is not practical. "In recent days it's become more common to see some people wearing latex gloves as they perform everyday tasks. But experts say that gloves don't make sense for most people to wear. Using your ungloved hands – and then washing them often – is the best bet for the typical tasks of everyday life." <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/04/10/832003425/coronavirus-faqs-do-gloves-help-is-it-allergies-or-covid-19>. Whereas, masks at least protect others

around you, gloves in this same environment don't protect you or those around you. If you do wear gloves, it is critically important that you follow a proper procedure in removing them, and by all means YOU MUST DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY, DO NOT LITTER.

#### **April 17, 2020 – Update from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Although the number of cases in Provincetown have temporarily leveled out, we are not out of the woods yet. We know from the State's modeling that the active cases in Massachusetts have not yet peaked. We should not become complacent in the fact that Provincetown's numbers have not grown significantly over the past two weeks. We need to continue to stay at home and to avoid gathering with people who are not in our social isolation group. When it is not possible to social distance, then yes we encourage you to wear mask. If you own a business where it would be difficult to maintain six feet between individuals, then please ask your customers to wear a mask for their protection and for the protection of your employees. By all accounts, social distancing is working, but we must remain diligent.

If we continue with this trend, then we can start to plan for our recovery. Following the guidance from the State and public health officials we will gradually be able to start opening our community back up in a slow and methodical way. As I have announced, I am assembling a Recovery Coalition made up of community leaders and stakeholder and we will immediately start to make a plan to unroll a phased reopening when the time is right. We cannot and will not just throw open our doors and put ourselves at further risk. I know many of you are hurting financially and maybe even emotionally, but we need to be thoughtful and we need to be cautious. Please continue to be safe and look out for your family and friends while our community starts to explore what our new normal will look like.

#### **April 17, 2020 – Update from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Link to the COVID-19 Update Report to the Select Board at the April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting on the Operational Response Activities of Town Departments

<http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/24012>

Online packet has been updated. It starts on page 5

#### **April 17, 2020 – Cape Cod National Seashore Urges Public Cooperation During**

**COVID-19.** The Seashore issued a [press release](#) urging the public to respect their seashore, follow all guidance and regulations, and act responsibly, as there has been an increase in vandalism, dumping and regulation violations, including pets on trails, in shorebird areas, and off leash; and bicycles, dirt bikes, and ATVs on trails.

The Seashore does not have the resources during this crisis to address these careless acts. They will issue citations to those who do not follow regulations, and may be forced to close areas of the seashore if violations continue.

#### **April 17, 2020 – Update from Department of Public Works re: Yard Waste**

Please note that the Town does not pick up yard waste during curbside collection. Please refrain from putting brush and yard clippings out at the street; it will not be picked up. Curbside collection includes solid waste and single stream recycling only. Starting on Friday April 17th, DPW will open the compost facility at the Transfer Station to Residents Only for leaves, pine needles and grass clipping disposal. No Commercial Vehicles will be allowed, no exceptions. Cut brushwood (brush) will not be accepted from neither residents nor commercial businesses until further notice.

#### **April 15, 2020 – Governor Updates Essential Services FAQs Order**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services-faqs>

#### **April 15, 2020 – Department of Public Health Issues Essential Service Worker**

**Guidelines.** In accordance with the CDC and Prevention’s guidance for critical infrastructure workers and to ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, the DPH advises that workers performing essential services that are not healthcare services (“Non-Healthcare Essential Service Workers”) may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/non-healthcare-essential-service-worker-covid-19-exposure-guidance/download>

#### **April 15, 2020 –Cape Cod Field Medical Station ([News Release](#))**

The Joint Base Cape Cod Field Medical Station supports the Administration’s strategy to increase hospital bed capacity for COVID-19 patients across the Commonwealth through the development of five regional medical facilities. Cape Cod Healthcare serves as the field hospital’s local health care partner and will manage the facility, which will house 94 beds and expects to admit patients beginning next Monday, April 20.

Medical stations, like the one being deployed to Cape Cod, are required to set up in facilities of at least 40,000 square feet to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and include beds, supplies and a cache of medicine for basic care. Alternate medical sites like this one are in place to support existing hospital capacity in the region and do not provide care for walk-in patients.

#### **April 15, 2020 - Mortgage Relief Partnership**

Twelve of the largest housing lenders will offer at least three months of deferred mortgage payments for homeowners who contact them and demonstrate they have been financially impacted by the crisis. In addition, the lenders have committed not to charge late fees, or report non-payments to the credit bureaus. Homeowners will not be required to pay back the deferred mortgage payments in a lump sum, but will instead work with lenders on an affordable repayment plan. Homeowners should reach out to their lenders. <https://www.boston.gov/news/new-mortgage-relief-partnership-aid-homeowners-during-covid-19-pandemic>

#### **April 14, 2020 – Update from the Finance Department**

All Fiscal Year 2020 Second Half Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills formerly due on May 1, 2020 will now be due on June 1, 2020.

**April 14, 2020 – Update from Small Business Administration**

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOANS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paycheck-Protection-Program-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>.

**April 13, 2020 – Provincetown Rescue Association**

The Provincetown Rescue Association appreciates community support at all times. During this difficult situation while the fire station is closed to the public, all donations may be sent to the Association at PO BOX 109 Provincetown MA 02657. Thank you and please stay safe.

**April 13, 2020 - Helpful State Links:**

[Mass.Gov/covid19](#)

[Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency  
Unemployment & COVID-19](#)

[Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)

[Emergency Childcare Site](#)

[COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)

[Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance](#)

[Stop the Spread of Germs](#)

**Social distancing: for [youth](#) for [general audience](#)**

[Coping with stress or fear](#)

**What to do [if you are sick](#)**

[10 tips for at-home quarantine or self-monitoring](#)

**April 10, 2020 – Update from the Provincetown Tourism Office**

The Tourism Office Website has been updating the calendar of events as the event organizers have notified the Town of their event changes. Click through for a list of canceled and rescheduled events [ptowntourism.com/events](http://ptowntourism.com/events). This list will be edited and update regularly.

**April 9, 2020 - A message from Provincetown Town Manager, Robin Craver**

It is during the most difficult times when we realize what matters most. So let us begin with a note of thanks to the entire Provincetown community. The generosity, care and love we are witnessing during this unprecedented time is, quite simply, profound. It gives us reason to believe wholeheartedly that when we come out of this, our families, friends, neighbors, businesses and partners will be the stronger for it.

It is also an incredibly challenging time on many fronts, including our community, our friends and guests, as well as the businesses that make our town so unique. Our first concern is for the health and safety of everyone who chooses to make

Provincetown their home and we will continue to be guided by the federal, state and local health authorities to ensure the health and safety of Provincetown.

We are reaching out to let you know that our team is planning and strategizing for the days, weeks and months ahead. During this time, we are focusing on both short- and long-term action items, including safety, positioning and communication tools and strategies.

Summer 2020 will undoubtedly be different. Yet it will also be uniquely Provincetown with the amazing welcoming spirit which Provincetown was founded on 400 years ago. Visitors and friends will return to find comfort and beauty here, as well as nostalgia and peace during a quieter summer of re-entry once it is safe and advisable to do so. The distinct culture and the enthusiasm that are hallmarks of Provincetown will still be here.

We continue to be guided by the mandates and recommendations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the CDC and the WHO. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves on a daily and weekly basis. The crisis has forced organizers to make changes to some of our larger public summer events. For the latest update on events, please check [PtownTourism.com/Events](https://PtownTourism.com/Events).

Please stay safe, check on your neighbors and abide by all of the safety measures that are in place. Together, we can ensure that Provincetown comes out of these challenging times healthy, and as a welcoming haven and a joyous place.

#### **April 9, 2020 – Update from the Health Department**

It appears that Provincetown has begun to flatten the curve and that our social distancing efforts are working. Federal and state projections for Massachusetts show that the worst is yet to come with COVID-19 over the next two weeks or so. Any burdens on the healthcare system will affect all of us throughout Massachusetts, so we must continue to do our part. Please limit trips to open businesses to only what is essential. Maintain a distance of 6 feet from any non-household member and continue to wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds each time. You can wear a cloth face covering in settings where social distancing is hard to maintain – there is more information on how to make your own covering on the CDC's website. Please remember that getting exercise is important for your mental and physical health and continue to do so from a safe distance from others. The Town's website maintains many helpful links to resources including financial assistance and ways to connect while social distancing.

#### **April 9, 2020 – [Provincetown Resources Information](#)**

**Provincetown Food Resources Information.** There are several resources available for Provincetown residents needing assistance in obtaining food. Please see the [Provincetown Food Resources](#) list for information.

**Provincetown Housing Resources Information.** There are several resources available for Provincetown residents needing assistance with housing. Please see the [Provincetown Housing Resources](#) list for information.

### **April 9, 2020 – Update from Department of Public Works re: Yard Waste**

Please note that the Town does not pick up yard waste during curbside collection. Please refrain from putting brush and yard clippings out at the street; it will not be picked up. Curbside collection includes solid waste and single stream recycling only.

Starting on Friday April 17th, DPW will open the compost facility at the Transfer Station to Residents Only for leaves, pine needles and grass clipping disposal. No Commercial Vehicles will be allowed, no exceptions. Cut brushwood (brush) will not be accepted from neither residents nor commercial businesses until further notice.

### **April 9, 2020 – Update from Eversource**

During these difficult times, we're committed to supporting our customers, neighbors and the communities where we work and live.

If you're struggling, you can get support:

- Residential customers can apply for assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund through your local Salvation Army Assistance Center.
- Business and residential customers can also contact us to set up a flexible payment plan – with no down payment – for any past-due amount.

To decrease hardship, we've also suspended disconnection of service for non-payment and eliminated late payment charges.

If you're doing OK, here's how to help your neighbors in need:

- Contribute to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund to help people in Massachusetts struggling to pay their energy bills. You can make a one-time online donation through the Salvation Army or mail your contribution.
- If someone you know personally is in need, you can pay all or a portion of their energy bill. Simply contact us with their name, service address and the payment amount. We'll provide an email to notify them of your generous gift or you can choose to remain anonymous.

What else we're doing to help:

To support critical social services provided by nonprofits, we're donating more than \$2 million through the Eversource Foundation to COVID-19 response efforts, including Family Pantry of Cape Cod

### **April 9, 2020 - Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources**

Health and government officials are working together to maintain the safety, security, and health of the American people. Small businesses are encouraged to do their part to keep their employees, customers, and themselves healthy.

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

### **April 9, 2020 - Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program**

An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the

Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

### **April 8, 2020 – Update from The Provincetown COVID-19 Task Force**

The Task Force has set up a stress hotline seven days a week from noon to 7pm. at 508-309-5848 staffed by local mental health professionals, Barbara Murphy, Mary Ellen Dwyer, Rita Paradise, Donna Flax and Loretta Butehorn.

### **April 8, 2020 – Update from the Water Department on Seasonal Water Services**

The Water Department continues to receive multiple daily requests for water service turn-ons. In an effort to serve the community, and protect our staff, we will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis. Our goal is zero personal contact in order to protect our staff and the public. Restaurants and food establishments are currently being turned on for take-out services. We will work with both property owners and property management firms to turn on water service for owner-occupied buildings or units. Per the Governor's Orders, we will not be activating short term rental units or hotels. We are currently working with reduced staff, please be patient while we schedule these appointments while also maintaining day to day activities.

### **April 8, 2020 – Update from the State**

**Nursing Home Family Resource Line:** The Governor announced the launch of 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. This resource was created so that family and community members have one central contact that they can reach out to if they have questions or concerns about the care their loved one is receiving during the COVID-19 outbreak. The line is staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM, seven days a week. Staff will coordinate across state agencies to help callers find answers to their questions. Families and community members can call the line at (617) 660-5399.

### **April 8, 2020 - A Message from Outer Cape Health**

As the spread of COVID-19 continues on Cape Cod, individuals are being asked to reduce close contact between people, or "social distance" themselves. Outer Cape Health Services (OCHS) reminds everyone in the community to social distance at this crucial time in order to slow down the spread of the coronavirus.

And please remember: if you are not feeling well, please call us ahead and do not go out in public or enter any OCHS sites without an appointment.

**Why Social Distancing is Important:** Because COVID-19 spreads from person to person, reducing the ways people come in close contact with each other is essential. Social distancing means staying home as much as possible and avoiding crowded, public places where close contact with others is likely. For essential trips like grocery shopping, the CDC recommends staying at least 6 feet away from others and wearing a mask that covers your mouth and nose.

Social distancing is an essential way to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and help to flatten and even "bend the curve, whether you're in one of the high-risk groups or not. Social distancing may feel like an inconvenience, but it's the best way right now to protect family, friends, and neighbors. Social distancing only works if we all participate. Slowing down or preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus will ultimately save lives as the incidence of the virus peaks on Cape Cod.

Self-isolation: We remind you that COVID-19 can spread from person to person even before symptoms start. So, if someone in your family starts to feel even slightly ill, run down, tired, or achy, it's important to stay home and practice "self -isolation." This means limiting contact with others. If more severe symptoms develop, like a fever, cough or shortness of breath, call Outer Cape Health Services first at 508-905-2888. A provider will first ask questions by phone, and let you know if a COVID-19 test is needed.

Outer Cape Health Services remains here to serve you and the community, but we ask that you do your part. With your cooperation, we will "flatten" or even "bend the curve" together. Thank you!

For more helpful coronavirus/COVID-19 information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [click here](#).

#### **April 6, 2020 - A message from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Although yet unconfirmed by the State Examiner's Office, it appears the Town of Provincetown has experienced the first corona-related death over the weekend. Community member John Perrone passed away from complications of the virus. On behalf of the Select Board and Town Staff, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends who lost their loved one. I have dreaded this announcement for several weeks now as we all have been watching the news and knew that at some point this crisis would hit home. We also know that based on many of the modeling that we have heard from the experts, that we are still on the upswing of this fight. We can expect that many more will become inflicted with this virus over the next several weeks. Which is why it is still urgent for people again to maintain social distancing to stem the spread of the virus. We need to remember that we're all in this together, and we ask everyone to take responsibility to do their part to stop the spread of this horrible, contagious virus.

#### **April 6, 2020 - Message of Hope from the Town Manager**

From a more technical side, today we have 5 active lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, and 16 cases that have been cleared from isolation and symptoms have resolved. What is being discussed less frequently is that many Provincetown residents are being tested and most are receiving negative results. There are still flu strains and common cold viruses and for all of us, a sneeze or a body ache can now be accompanied by a feeling of despair or doom. Please don't let yourself despair without reaching out for help. "The symptoms are very mild," reports one local person with a COVID-19 diagnosis, "except for the sleepiness." Of 22 lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Provincetown, almost all report generally mild flu-like symptoms. There are definitely periods of fever and fatigue and many report feeling better and then a feeling of relapse. Please know that if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 in Provincetown, the odds are that you will be sick, but most will recover.

The novel coronavirus and COVID-19 remain a serious threat to this community, but they are not the only threats. We all face the very real threats of depression, anxiety, disconnection, and other mental and emotional health issues, as well as

financial issues. Our most vulnerable have lost significant pieces of their safety net. While the Town and our hardworking local agencies are working to piece together what we can from an appropriate distance, the absence is real and felt. If you are feeling powerless or wish to help, then we suggest you offer aid to these agencies. Many need cloth masks for their continued work, as do all our essential businesses, so if you are crafty then please turn those skills to a necessary cause. Everyone should remember that masks should be washed daily in soap and hot water and dried. Also, many agencies need financial support to keep their programs and clients afloat.

Please remember, the Town only has numbers for lab-confirmed cases, which may only be one piece of a larger picture of COVID-19 cases. Continue to wash your hands, stay 6 feet away from anyone who does not live in your household, and stay home as much as possible. Wear a cloth mask in public and wash regularly. In the terms of one of our community's other threats, remember, when thinking about the tagging program for sharks beware not to feel a sense of security because an untagged shark can bite you.

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from the Department of Revenue (DOR)**

The DOR released guidance extending the April 15, 2020 deadline to July 15, 2020 for personal income tax, estate and trust income tax, partnership composite returns and personal income with respect to deemed repatriated income. The guidance also extends the due date Q1 and Q2 estimated payments to July 15, 2020. While the guidance does not extend the April 15 deadline for C-corps, the DOR is waiving late-file and late-payment penalties (although interests will still accrue). For a copy of the guidance, [click here](#).

### **April 3, 2020 – More Small Business Assistance Resources**

The US Chamber of Commerce Small Business Guide. [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Small Businesses](#)

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from the Recreation Department**

As a result of the town Recreational facilities closing, Adult and Children Programming have been postponed until further notice. We have created this page with similar virtual programs you may have participated in at the community center or helpful information. <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/1324/Resources>

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from GOSNOLD**

Janet Beattie is a Human Services Advocate with Gosnold serving the Provincetown community. She is currently available to assist with resources and information you may need during and after the Covid-19 crisis, including applying for Food Stamps, Fuel Assistance, Disability Benefits, Emergency Financial applications, Medicaid, Social Security, Health Insurance and/or other resource needs. All ages are welcome.

Services are free and confidential. Janet can be reached at 508-487-2449, extension 6024, 9:00 am until noon daily.

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from the Health Department and Board of Health regarding the Use of Face Masks by the general public**

The Provincetown Health Department and the Board of Health have not promoted the widespread use of face masks in our community while social distancing measures are in place. Social distancing measures, and frequent handwashing, are better forms of protection from COVID-19. For those who work in essential services where social distancing measures are not always possible, face masks may help in addition to distancing as much as possible, and washing hands frequently.

[http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12829/Memo\\_Mask-Use-040320](http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12829/Memo_Mask-Use-040320)

### **April 2, 2020 - Update Message from Town Manager Robin Craver**

A lot of people have expressed concern about access to information on the Town's website. There is a lot of information on the site and it is updated daily, and we will do our best to ensure that the information is fresh and relevant. The direct link to the COVID page is: <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=944>

On the Town's website, click on the [READ ON] button within the Blue Box on the homepage that says COVID-19 Information. This brings you to the COVID Page which includes the most recent Town updates, Governor's Stay-at-Home Order, Health Department COVID Information, as well as links to a host of other information.

Please understand now that we are self-isolating until May 4<sup>th</sup>, this will become a long and tedious process. There will be a slowdown in "breaking information". Sometimes no news is good news. Town Staff continue to participate in daily conference calls with State and County Health and Emergency Management Agencies. We continue to monitor the Governor's Daily briefings and will push out information as we deem useful to Town residents.

Additional information can be obtained at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.Mass.gov](http://www.Mass.gov) and [www.barnstablecountyhealth.org](http://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org)

If you have not already signed up for the **Alert System**, please do so at <https://alerts.provincetown-ma.gov>. To information on Town Government operations call the Town Business Hotline at 508-413-9600 or the Department directly.

### **April 2, 2020 – Update on How to Volunteer Locally**

Locally, volunteer efforts on the ground are being coordinated by the Provincetown COVID-19 Taskforce on both medical and non-medical fronts. You can reach out to them directly at [pc19taskforce@gmail.com](mailto:pc19taskforce@gmail.com)

### **April 2, 2020 – Small Business Administration COVID-19 Resources**

Here are some state run assistance programs for [Massachusetts](#).

## **April 2, 2020 – Business Assistance for Cape Cod Businesses**

[Local resources](#) for Cape Codders by Cape and Plymouth Business. Includes great local resources for childcare and housing assistance.

## **April 1, 2020 Message from Town Manager Robin Craver**

As the frustration levels within the community start to grow, please understand that Town staff is doing everything in our power to maintain critical infrastructure and services, while at the same time trying to be mindful and proactive about the needs of Town residents. I know many of you have expressed concern that the Town government is not doing enough to prepare; to belay your concerns about what's to come; to communicate what we know and what we do not yet know. As a lifelong public servant, I understand the need to be responsive and accessible to the public. I will continue to strive to do that to the best of my ability and will expect the same of my staff.

Please recognize that Town staff are also human beings, that we are living through this same crisis, trying to adapt to new challenges and anticipate what's next. We also are susceptible to getting sick and have families that we need to care for. We are all experiencing the same challenges; we are all doing our best.

Town government has limited resources, limited personnel, and limited supplies. We continue to work closely with the emergency management and public health systems within the State and the County. We are in communication and working regularly with non-profit organizations and social service agencies in Town to ensure that the needs of our most vulnerable residents get the care and assistance they need.

Unfortunately, we are not able to be everything to everyone during this crisis, but we will do our best to listen to your concerns and where we are able to right the ship and make adjustments in our levels of service, we will do that as efficiently and expeditiously as we are able with the resources available to us. Thank you for your patients, please remain Provincetown Strong.

## **April 1, 2020 Update regarding Short Term Rental Compliance**

In our efforts to be compliant with the Governor's Order, the Town has sent a notice to all known short term rentals and licensed lodging facilities. The Town has also reached out to many of the on-line rental platforms asking for their assistance and compliance.

VRBO and Homeaway have agreed to put banners at the top of all searches of Provincetown rentals stating the Governor's current Order is in effect at least until May 4<sup>th</sup> and linking a copy of the Order. Additionally, they will be emailing each renter listing on their sites in the 02657 area code with a copy of the Order. We are currently

reaching out to other on-line platforms asking for the same level of cooperation. If we are unable to get cooperation from a specific platform town staff will be reaching out directly with a compliance message regarding short-term rentals to every listing on the site which will include a link to the Governor's order. If the Governor extends the order/guidelines past the current expiration date we will reach out to the on-line platforms ensuring that they extend their mitigation tools to whatever date the Governor, or Provincetown Board of Health, determines to be appropriate. As always our goal is to seek compliance, but the Town will do what it is necessary to remain in compliance with the Governor's directives and to protect the health of Town residents.

#### **April 1, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation**

The Provincetown Public Pier Corporation has **postponed the Public Hearing scheduled for April 2, at 2pm until the State of Emergency is over.** This meeting was to discuss the upcoming season's new policies, adjusted and changed rates and leads us into new dock/berth assignments for the newly constructed floating docks and some on the fixed piers. The PPPC will re-notice the hearing once a new date is chosen.

#### **April 1, 2020 Mass Cultural Council Resources for Artists & Cultural Workers**

We know that the COVID-19 crisis has caused major disruptions for the careers of individuals who earn income through their work in the cultural sector. In response, we will launch (pending final approval by our governing Council on April 7, 2020) a relief fund for individuals. [Read More](#)

#### **April 1, 2020 Mass Cultural Council Resources for Cultural Organizations**

Mass Cultural Council is providing a 3-pronged package of support for our cultural nonprofit organizations to not only understand and access assistance offered through new Federal Acts, but to also deliver broad and high-touch capacity building services to help organizations in understanding their current financial challenges and crafting a strategy forward. [Read More](#)

#### **March 31, 2020 Update from Governor Baker**

Governor extends the Stay-at-Home Order and Closing of Non-essential Business Activity timeline to May 4, 2020. Ordering everyone to continue to self-isolate and practice social distancing through that time period.

Business list of essential activities. The Governor has directed DPH to provide clarity that hotel, motels and short term rentals are to be used for limited purposes only related to the provision of essential services and for the temporary housing of essential employees. Short term rentals may no longer be booked for vacation or recreational purposes. People should be staying at home and not vacationing.

#### **March 31, 2020 Housing Resource Links**

**Housing Resources.** Here is the forwarded link from Dana at the Citizen's Housing and Planning Center in regards to assistance with housing.

<https://www.chapa.org/housing-courses/covid-19-immediate-assistance>.

From Mass Law Reform Institute (MLRI): For more about what tenants should do if they are facing an emergency see [link to illegal eviction information](#). The information is also available as a [handout](#).

### **March 30, 2020 Update from Board of Health**

#### **Important information on lodging during this public health emergency:**

The Provincetown Board of Health offers its interpretation of the Governor's March 23, 2020 Emergency Order for non-essential businesses to cease in-person operations.

Under the Governor's Order, travel for tourism or vacation is not an essential activity and accordingly, short-term rentals and services related to those rentals such as AirBnB and VRBO are not permitted. Licensed hotels and inns are permitted to be open as the Governor has deemed hotel workers essential. Travel is restricted in Massachusetts to those whose travel is for essential activities only.

If an inn is open and there is a confirmed or presumed/ diagnosed positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, the Health Department may close the facility to protect the health and well-being of everyone and those on site may be ordered to quarantine until everyone there is clear of the virus. We appreciate the degree which the guesthouses, inns and hotels have acted voluntarily to help fight the spread of this disease. All of us are called to follow the Governor's Order and reduce the rate of infection.

While we expect the Governor to extend his Order, if the Governor's Order does not extend until April 30<sup>th</sup>, then the Provincetown Board of Health will reissue its local Order to cease non-essential business until April 30, 2020. This is an ever-changing situation and we understand that our licensees are looking for clarity and certainty. At this time the best we can offer is that bookings for travel or other non-essential services should not occur until May 1, 2020 at the earliest, although this may be extended based on the situation as it unfolds. We will be constantly monitoring the situation to allow short-term rentals at the earliest date that doesn't compromise the health and safety of the town.

### **March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Town Manager**

#### **Message regarding second homeowners and working as a community**

During a State of Emergency it is absolutely critical that the community comes together in support of a unified response to the COVID-19 crisis. There is much discussion on social media about residents, non-residents, year rounders and second homeowners. These labels and social media conversations are causing fear and discord at a time when we need care, compassion and unity. As far as the administration is concerned we are one community and we will do our utmost to care for everyone regardless of their residency status or birthright.

Of course we are concerned about critical capacities in our emergency response, public safety, and health care facilities, but now is not the time to draw distinctions, create classes and label individuals. Town staff, first responders and essential service employees have all stepped up and are doing their best to care for all those in need.

We are monitoring the local positive cases daily and to date they are doing well and have their needs being cared for. They are all quarantined and sheltering in place.

It is absolutely critical that all members on the community shelter in place except for when they are providing or obtaining essential services, and when doing so, practice social distancing. Personal responsibility and safe practices will keep you safe. Self-isolate, wash your hands, practice social distance. If you are sick, stay home and monitor your symptoms and reach out to your primary health provider by phone when needed. This is a very scary time and we all need to maintain calm and show compassion and care to those around us regardless of who they might be.

### **March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Transfer Station**

This is a critical time for our nation with unprecedented closures of businesses and social activities to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Your staff at the transfer station are doing their part by limiting services to essential activities. We understand the importance of moving your household waste and recyclables to keep your home clean and sanitized. However, at this time we are not accepting yard waste as it requires frequent interaction between our staff and the public including an exchange of business coupons and cash. We understand this is an inconvenience for both our residents and business partners and apologize for this limited moratorium. We ask that residents hold their yard waste or compost on site and suggest our business partners reach out to other vendors regarding disposal areas. We again apologize for this inconvenience and ensure you that we will resume this service as soon as appropriate.

### **March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Airport.**

#### **Provincetown Airport Closed April 1 to April 30 for scheduled construction**

Due to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandated runway/taxiway improvement project, the Town of Provincetown will temporarily close Provincetown Municipal Airport (PVC) from Wednesday, April 1, through Thursday, April 30, 2020.

### **March 30, 2020 Update from the Transportation Coordinator**

Both P & B and Peter Pan Bus Company have suspended service to town. The CCRTA is supplementing for the Peter Pan routes with two new services from Provincetown to Hyannis 6 days a week. <http://www.capecodtransit.org/>

### **March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation**

The PPPC Public Hearing to review Harbor Regulations, Dock allocation Process and Policies and the impact on future categories affecting rates is still on schedule for this Thursday April 2nd at 2pm at this time. Check online agenda for call-in information.

Kayak rack permit sales are being postponed until April 30th or later as we attempt to work on being able to sell and assign on line or via phone. The same goes for the dinghy dock and beach boat permits.

