

TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE [issued March 20, 2020, 10:00AM]**

As concerns rise over the Coronavirus (COVID-19), town officials would like to take this opportunity to provide Southborough residents, town employees, businesses and the general public with an update on some of the measures that have been taken to date in regards to COVID-19.

Information about the coronavirus is evolving, and the situation remains dynamic. The Town of Southborough continues to be in contact with state officials, emergency management teams and board of health representatives to discuss plans daily and would like to share the following information:

***Are there any cases of COVID-19 in Southborough?***

As of March 20, 2020, at 10:00 AM, there are no positive cases of COVID-19 for residents of Southborough.

***Are there any Town services that are changing as a result of COVID-19?***

In addition to the previously announced closings of Town buildings to the public, the following are service updates, listed by department:

**Public Safety**

The Southborough Police Department and Southborough Fire Department continue to monitor the COVID-19 Coronavirus, and are working closely with the Town Administrator, Superintendent of Schools, Emergency Management Director and local public health officials.

Public safety is our primary responsibility, and we will always respond immediately to 911 emergencies and urgent calls for service. In order to continue providing the best public safety services in the Town of Southborough and its citizens, the Police & Fire Departments will be limiting our face-to-face interactions when possible.

Officials are concerned with the health and well-being of our First Responders, as well as the public we serve. As this virus continues to spread, the main goal is to maintain a healthy police force and fire department to allow for the continuation of services without resorting to contingency plans.

Both the Southborough Police Department and the Southborough Fire Department, are curtailing walk-in services at the Public Safety Complex located at 32 Cordaville Road, Southborough, MA (as pertains to fingerprinting, soliciting registration, records requests, non-violent past offenses, medication drop-off, fire business, etc.).

**We urge you to call ahead if you have any police or fire business.**

The phone number for the Southborough Police Department is (508) 485-2121, and the website is <https://www.southboroughtown.com/police-department>. The phone number for the Fire Department is (508) 485-3232, and the website is <https://www.southboroughtown.com/fire-department>.

**Records Requests:** Please call or email the police department with your record requests. The Southborough Police Department's Records Division consists of Lieutenant Ryan Newell- [rnewell@southboroughma.com](mailto:rnewell@southboroughma.com) , and Chief Kenneth Paulhus- [kpaulhus@southboroughma.com](mailto:kpaulhus@southboroughma.com).

**Fire Records Requests and General Inquiries:** Please call or email Alicia Porter at (508) 485-3235 x 1 or [aporter@southboroughma.com](mailto:aporter@southboroughma.com).

**Fire Prevention and Inspection Inquiries:** Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, the Southborough Fire Department will be suspending any non-emergency, commercial and residential inspections including smoke detector, oil burning equipment, and fire alarm systems for two (2) weeks. Underground and above ground propane inspections will still take place during this time. Please call or email Lieutenant Christian Dano at (508) 485-3235 x 2 or [cdano@southboroughma.com](mailto:cdano@southboroughma.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Firearms Licensing:** We will not be accepting any New or Renewal LTC/FID Firearms applications at this time. If your License to Carry is going to expire in 30 days or less, please email Lt. Ryan Newell: [rnewell@southboroughma.com](mailto:rnewell@southboroughma.com). You will receive an extension letter covering you during this hold period. For those that are renewing, most steps in the renewal process can be done online or through the mail.

**Again, walk-in service for non-emergencies is being curtailed and we ask that you call the police or fire department instead.** As a temporary change, non-emergency matters may be reported over the phone at (508) 485-2121, and an officer will be assigned to follow-up with you. This applies to a variety of less serious offenses that are NOT IN PROGRESS. In these cases, officers may utilize email for statements or photos needed for the report. As always, if reporting an emergency, please dial 911. If it is determined that a response by an officer is warranted, please understand that they are likely to keep a "safe distance" and unlikely to shake hands, etc. Again, this is out of an abundance of caution to keep our staff and the public safe and not an indicator of the officer's friendliness or willingness to help.

Rest assured that help is there for you, as you would expect. Only temporary changes are being made to the way that services are provided, while being committed to the same excellent service that our community deserves.

### **Technology**

IT Manager Tom Laflamme has implemented a virtual meeting solution that is consistent with the Governor's Emergency Order on March 12, 2020, so that essential government meetings can be held while maintaining the desired social distancing. At this time, "essential" is defined as follows:

1. Board of Selectmen
2. Board of Health
3. School Committee
4. Any permitting board that needs to meet in order to avoid a constructive approval on a project.

Residents or other interested parties can view the meetings live or taped at the Town's YouTube page here: <https://www.southboroughtown.com/remotemeetings>. Should the State of Emergency continue for an extended period of time, the Selectmen will revisit extending the use of virtual meetings to more boards and committees.

### **Recreation**

The Southborough Recreation Department has postponed/cancelled all programming until further notice. All fields are closed for large public gatherings such as practices and games. All school and

town playgrounds are closed until further notice. We encourage people to go outside but please continue to practice social distancing and keeping at least 6 feet apart from people outside of your household.

***Where can I find more information?***

The official source of information from the Town of Southborough is the Town website

[<https://www.southboroughtown.com/> ] and Town Twitter account [ @17Common ]

Go to <https://www.southboroughtown.com/subscribe> to sign up for E-alerts through the Town website.

Go to <https://www.southboroughtown.com/home/pages/code-red> to register for CodeRed through the Town website

**The Board of Health page can be found at: <https://www.southboroughtown.com/board-health>**

- [CDC COVID 19 Information](#)
- **COVID 19 Fact Sheet** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>
- **COVID 19 FAQ'S** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>
- [CDC Guidance on Stigma and Resilience](#)
- [World Health Organization COVID 19 Information](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health's New Coronavirus Website](#)
- [Talking to Children About Covid-19--National Association of School Psychologists](#)

***We will continue to monitor this situation closely and provide ongoing updates on the town website and on social media outlets.***