

# Town of Newbury

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, March 28, 2020

The Town of Newbury Public Health Agent, Deb Rogers, Town Administrator, Tracy Blais and Emergency Management Director, Michael Reilly, report that the Town of Newbury has been notified by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health of the Town's first positive case of COVID-19.

Newbury Public Health officials were notified by the Department of Public Health of the positive test results today. They have already been in contact with the resident. The resident is in quarantine per Department of Public Health orders. Newbury Public Health officials are conducting contact tracing to identify anyone who has been in close contact with the resident. Once identified, Newbury Public Health officials will offer guidance and outline Department of Public Health guidelines.

In order to protect the medical privacy rights of the affected individual, no further information will be disclosed.

### Important Safety Reminders

**SOCIAL DISTANCING:** In conjunction with Governor Baker's ban on gatherings of more than ten (10) people, the Town of Newbury encourages residents to exercise proper Social Distancing practices. People should remain at least six (6) feet away from each other to reduce the likelihood of exposure among people. Stay away from social gatherings or groups especially

if you are over 60, if you have underlying health conditions, a weakened immune system or are pregnant. As COVID-19 is extremely contagious, it is possible for people to spread the virus without exhibiting symptoms.

**HAND WASHING/CLEANING/HYGIENE:** The Town of Newbury encourages frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Absent soap and water, an alcohol-based hand-sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol. Avoid touching your face if possible. Also, frequently clean commonly touched hard surfaces (such as phones, keyboards, door knobs, light switches, bathroom and kitchen faucet handles, toilet handles).

Avoid sharing items such as pens, phones, drinks, eating utensils, etc. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing. Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.

## **Town Services**

**TOWN OFFICES:** Town Offices remain closed to the public and Town Office Employees are working remotely when possible. Residents, for the foreseeable future, should plan to conduct Town business via email, telephone or online. Visit the Town of Newbury webpage [www.townofnewbury.org](http://www.townofnewbury.org) for more information.

**CULTURE AND RECREATION:** The Town Library remains closed as well as all Town recreation fields and parks.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES:** The Newbury Fire and Police Departments remain staffed and prepared to respond to any and all emergency situations. Out of an abundance of caution, during this public health emergency and depending on the nature of the call, fire, EMS and police personnel may arrive on scene wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If at all possible, callers for emergency service should advise the dispatcher if anyone in the residence has been required to self-quarantine or is exhibiting flu-like symptoms. You may be asked to meet the first responders outside your home (if possible).

We ask that residents DO NOT dial 9-1-1 for questions or concerns about COVID-19. The State website ([www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)) or the CDC website can answer many of your questions. Also, the State 2-1-1 line is a 24/7 service set up to answer COVID-19 related questions. Residents who are

feeling ill with flu-like symptoms should contact their primary care physician first before calling for emergency services.