

This is an important message from the Town of Marblehead.

Governor Baker announced this week that non-essential business closures were extended to May 18th. Additionally, gatherings of 10 or more is prohibited until May 18th, and the state's Stay at Home Advisory remains in effect.

This week's COVID-19 case count increased by more than we've seen since the crisis began. On Monday, the Town had 76 active COVID-19 cases compared to 31 active cases at the beginning of last week. Sadly, the Town has experienced our first loss of life due to the virus. The Town would like to express our deepest condolences to the families and friends grieving during this extraordinarily difficult time.

The increase in COVID-19 cases is largely attributable to the long term care facilities in town that have experienced clusters of positive COVID-19 diagnoses. The Board of Health has been working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the nursing homes to protect the health and well-being of the residents and employees of the nursing homes which continues to be a top priority.

This news is an important reminder to us all that our work to stop the spread of COVID-19 needs to continue. While we are grateful to the vast majority of residents who are adhering to social distancing guidelines we still are receiving reports that people are not social distancing in certain areas of town – in particular at Castle Rock and Crocker Park. Please – for your own safety and those that you are passing by – continue social distancing and walking, biking and jogging in your own neighborhood. When outside, you must keep your dog on a leash at all times.

The Board of Health adopted an advisory to strongly encourage the use of cloth face coverings whenever you are outside in public. As a reminder, the emergency order of the Board of Health is still in effect requiring the use of cloth face coverings for anyone entering an essential business like restaurants and grocery stores along with their employees, and in the common spaces of residential buildings with more than one unit.

Boating season is approaching and, the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has released boating guidelines. They are posted on the Town's website. The Harbormaster continues to work hard to ensure that the boating environment in Marblehead is open but is also safe. Marblehead town docks will be open but no loitering will be allowed. Docks will be used for loading and unloading only. Gangway access to docks is only to have one person or one household passing over at a time. Rafting of boats will not allowed in Marblehead waters until further notice, cloth face coverings must be used on all town piers, docks, boatyards and gangways and proper social distancing applies to the harbor, as well.

Thank you and please continue to stay up to date on the COVID-19 crisis by visiting the Town website – Marblehead.org.