

A Message from the Town of Marblehead

The Town of Marblehead and Marblehead Health Department continue to actively monitor and assess the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as it relates to the health and well-being of our employees and community. The Health Department remains in regular contact with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and follows the guidance issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The risk of Coronavirus in Massachusetts is rising at this time; we know that people are concerned about the potential impact of this disease in our community. The Town of Marblehead government is vigilant and actively planning for any changes in the spread of illness in the U.S. The health and well-being of our employees and community members remains our highest priority as we work together to understand the potential implications of the virus.

For information on the Coronavirus please click [here](#). According to the CDC, the 3 most common symptoms of the Coronavirus are:

1. Fever
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath

To do our part to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus the Town is taking the following precautions:

- Marblehead Public Schools have cancelled today, Friday, March 13, 2020 and for the next 2 weeks.
- All classes, programs and special events offered by the Senior Center are immediately suspended, excluding transportation.
- The Abbot Public Library has suspended all library programs -- for all age groups -- as well as the use of the building's meeting spaces by outside groups.
- All programming offered by the Recreation and Park Department have been suspended.
- All non-regulatory/advisory Town boards, committees, commissions are asked to suspend meetings indefinitely.

The Town has taken these initial steps in order to limit public gatherings and stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Town may take other measures in the future as it continues to assess and monitor the situation.

In addition to these actions we ask that all residents be prepared to conduct business with the Town through alternative means by utilizing the Town website (www.marblehead.org) , making payments through the mail or through the website rather than at the counter of the Treasurer/Collector Office, using the phone rather than in-person visits to municipal offices, and using email communication.

The Town is asking you to please do your part and is strongly encouraging all residents to take these simple steps and actions that can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough (cough into you elbow) or sneeze with a tissue
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Practice social distancing and avoid large group activities and events

All of us have a collective responsibility to avoid a spike in infection and “flatten the curve” to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus. According to public health experts, the spread of the Coronavirus is on the rise. The vast majority of these cases will only result in minor symptoms or no symptoms at all. However, the disease presents a serious threat for those over the age of 60 and/or those who have underlying health issues. If we collectively remain vigilant and calm, we can slow the spread of the virus so that our health care professionals can treat patients and avoid overwhelming our health care systems.

As this is a rapidly evolving situation the Town will continue to communicate with the community as updates become available and additional decisions are made. Please continue to visit the Town’s webpage [here](#). It will be updated regularly. Also, visit the Board of Health’s webpage [here](#) for information about the Coronavirus.