



**TOWN OF WAREHAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
54 Marion Road  
Wareham, MA 02571

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 31, 2020

COVID-19 Update

Good morning,

On Monday the COVID-19 Response Team had their daily remote meeting. One of the topics brought up was the lack of social distancing and other concerns regarding public playgrounds and recreational facilities. We understand that some residents may not have private green space available and that it is an especially difficult time for parents with young children at home. However, seeing people breaking social distancing advisories and in some cases irresponsible use of public facilities for sports and activities we are compelled to take action.

Therefore, effective immediately town playground, basketball, tennis and other recreational facilities are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beaches, trails and parks remain open at this time. However, people will still need to adhere to social distancing guidelines which includes no sports activities, play dates, social gatherings and picnics. Also, please be aware that benches and other such structures are not being sanitized.

Additionally, Bay Pointe Country Club has closed golf course operations. The club had put together strict guidelines for operations but some patrons were unwilling to adhere to said guidelines which lead to the closure.

Today, Wareham's confirmed number of COVID-19 cases stands at six. More people are being tested and the cases will rise. This should be a strong reminder that COVID-19 is here and we need to continue practicing social distancing, especially staying home as much as possible, and practice good hygiene.

Here are some ways to help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home; this includes your home and property.
- Have groceries delivered to your doorstep.
- Avoid contact with others by keeping a distance of at least six (6) feet between you at all times.
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- Do not touch your face
- Monitor yourself for fever, cough or shortness of breath, which are some of the main symptoms of COVID-19. If you develop any of these symptoms, please call your doctor's office. If you do not have a primary care physician, please call the Southcoast Health 24/7 COVID-19 Nursing Triage Hotline at 508-973-1919

We understand that this is a difficult time for many of us. We also know that there are many rumors that are swirling which may cause unnecessary concern. Therefore, we would like to provide some information to help people understand the research process that is involved in a COVID-19 case.

The Town of Wareham has a Public Health Nurse (and we have contracted with a second one) who works in the Health Department. Public Health Nurses have access to the State of Massachusetts disease reporting program called MAVEN. MAVEN stands for Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network and this system is used to report COVID-19 cases to the Public Health Nurse. The system provides critical information for Public Health Nurses to use in their research into the individual cases.

When a person is tested, their case is entered into MAVEN and the Nurse will contact this person to get an idea of their symptoms. They will also ask for other information in regards to potential close contacts and potential exposures.

When the test results are available they are entered into MAVEN then the person is contacted and notified of the results. Depending on the results all of the close contacts and potential exposures are notified and may be asked to self-quarantine.

We understand that social media plays a large role in peoples' lives. But please think before you post. We have spent countless hours, straining our response resources, responding to inaccurate and false information that stemmed from rumors which were posted. These rumors cause unnecessary anxiety and panic. If you have information that the Board of Health should be aware of, please call our offices at 508-291-3100 ext. 3197.

#### Council on Aging Operations Update

While the COA is closed to the public they are still operating for the seniors in our community. Staff are available via phone 508-291-3130 Monday through Friday from 8 AM to Noon.

The Meals on Wheels program is still serving food thanks to Old Colony Elder Services (OCES) and amazing community volunteers. If you would like to register for Meals on Wheels please contact Old Colony Elder Services at 508-584-1561. If you wish to volunteer to deliver meals, please contact the OCES volunteer coordinator at 508-584-1561.

We know that social distancing can be difficult for seniors. If you have elderly family, friends or neighbors please take this time to call them and see how they are doing.

Lastly, as we all go through this challenging time we would like to thank our community members for their kindness and support. As a community we will get through this together.

Respectfully,

Derek Sullivan  
Town Administrator