



MARCH 16, 2020 5:00 PM

Manchester-by-the-Sea COVID-19 Response:

For Immediate Release

**PRESS RELEASE**

***Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea Officials Release Update on Town Operations.***

**Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA** – Town Administrator Greg Federspiel and the Board of Selectmen would like to provide a response and update on Town Services and Community Resources available to the public during the current COVID-19 outbreak. We are in uncertain times but Manchester-by-the-Sea is a community that has always braved through the trials we have faced by pulling together as a community and Coronavirus will be no different.

The Board of Health advises that residents continue to practice social distancing, good hygiene practices and avoid crowds larger than 10 as recommended by [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)

The following are updates to the current operations:

- The Manchester Police Department, Fire/EMS Department, and vital Public Works staff will continue to operate as normal. If you have a life-threatening emergency, please call 911. Call your health care provider FIRST if you have any concerns over your health and possible exposure to COVID-19.
- Under the guidance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Town Hall offices will be closed to the public beginning Tuesday, March 17 until rescinded by a further order. Our intention is to keep the Town running while keeping our staff healthy. Please call or email specific departments to conduct your business.
- The Board of Selectmen will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on March 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Going forward beginning March 17, 2020 all board and committee meetings will be conducted virtually. More details to come.
- The Manchester Public Library will close at 5 p.m. on March 16, 2020 until further notice. ILL delivery is suspended, book drops will be locked, due dates extended to May 1, 2020 and all April programs are cancelled.
- MA Environmental Police have cancelled all Safe Boating Courses through May 1, 2020.
- The Manchester Fire Station will remain closed to the public at this time to protect our first responders. Please call the Fire Station with routine business matters at 978-526-4040.
- Hazardous Waste Day planned for April 4, 2020 has been postponed indefinitely.
- Annual Town Meeting is being postponed until May 2020. Details to follow.
- MERSD School District will be closed through April 7, 2020
- Fourth Quarter Real Estate Tax Bills will be mailed on April 1, 2020. Due to the uncertainty of when Town Offices will reopen to the public, the Town Treasurer has extended the due date to Friday, May 15, 2020. Payments can be made for real estate tax, excise tax, permits and more online at [www.manchester.ma.us/Town-Bills](http://www.manchester.ma.us/Town-Bills)
- On April 1, 2020 a drop box for payments will be installed behind Town Hall (next to Police Department blue door) for drive through access and accessibility. NO CASH PLEASE.
- Masconomo Park Playground will be closed until further notice.
- All Manchester Parks and Recreation programs have been cancelled until further notice.
- All Council on Aging programs are canceled until further notice. Vans are still running for medical and food needs and are being sanitized continuously. Volunteers interested in helping with food delivery for seniors please contact Nancy Hammond, Council on Aging Director at [hammondn@manchester.ma.us](mailto:hammondn@manchester.ma.us) or 978-526-7500.



- Trash and Transfer Station are currently operating on a regular schedule.
- Residents are encouraged to visit the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea website [www.manchester.ma.us](http://www.manchester.ma.us) to get updated information.