

Town of Pepperell

Select Board

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To the Pepperell Community:

COVID-19 continues to impact all of us and nearly every aspect of our lives. In the spring of 2020 as our statewide defenses made progress against the virus, I was hopeful that it would be behind us by the end of the summer. Today, it is clear that it isn't and instead will be with us for some time to come, likely most of 2021, possibly even longer.

This is affecting every decision we make and every moment of our lives. What to do, when to do it, with whom, and for how long. From the simple and mundane to the most complex activities and decisions we have to make, each is through the lens of the pandemic and the virus.

Understandably, this creates pressure, anxiety, and stress in our lives and we have fewer opportunities to assuage this through traditional means with friends, family, and activities. At the same time, we have seen many stories of people doing amazing things to help others. Some of these have happened right here in Pepperell and this community spirit and compassion for our neighbors continues to make Pepperell a special place.

The Town of Pepperell cannot completely fill the remaining void, but I hope to convey some helpful information to the community and assure residents that we are here to help in ways that we can. Here are some things you should be aware of:

- The Town of Pepperell is following Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulations and, when necessary, modifying them to our local needs. This includes the May 6, 2020 directive for the wearing of face coverings when in public, indoors or out, when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Staying at home / minimal human interaction remains the critical way to stop the virus. It feels heartless, but the virus needs humans to continue spreading. Staying home is one thing we can all do.
- Our Local Emergency Planning Council continues long term planning for whatever may come.
- While Town offices are closed to the public, most Town services continue to be available. There may be delays in service provision. See the Town website for specific details from each department.
- Residents in need of food and other basic services are encouraged to contact the Council on Aging for referrals and services – regardless of your age, this office will be able to resolve or refer you based on your issue.
- Resources for businesses are linked on the town website. There are substantial state and federal programs that have been funded multiple times.

Details can also be found here: <https://town.pepperell.ma.us/681/COVID-19>

Please continue to practice the safest behaviors to stop the virus. Wear a face covering, clean your hands regularly, and avoid close contact with other people. The virus is stoppable but only if we work together to do it.

Andrew MacLean
Town Administrator