CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

UPDATE from the City Manager for Tuesday, April 21, 2020

The Governor's "Stay At Home" order remains in effect through May 4, 2020. At his press conference on April 21, Governor Sununu announced the formation of an Economic Reopening Task Force comprised of a broad spectrum of NH businesses and organizations and that he anticipates no change in the restrictions at this time.

Sign up for the Daily Advisory, here. The latest news is always at the top, in red.

The City Health Officer reminds everyone to be vigilant. DO NOT CONGREGATE!

City Council has restored parking fees. Regular rates and time limits are back in force at kiosks on city streets and garages. For a map of downtown lots offering free parking, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/parkportsmouth/parking-locations-map-pricing **Please continue to observe the 15-minute free parking zones, as marked, for takeout/pickup.**

News from Portsmouth's Sister City of Nichinan, Japan. The College of Nursing affiliated wit https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/Advisory%202020.04.19.pdfh Portsmouth's Sister School was so moved by the poem written by Portsmouth Poet Laureate Tammi Truax (Sunday, April 19) they plan to have it read aloud at the nurses' capping ceremony, now rescheduled for October. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/Advisory%202020.04.19.pdf

NEW: GATHER Open-Air Market for laid-off workers, Thursdays 10 am to 3 pm at Community Campus, 100 Campus Drive in Portsmouth.

EARTH DAY, Wednesday, Apr 22 and ARBOR DAY, Friday, Apr 24: KEEP PORTSMOUTH BEAUTIFUL! Heading toward the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we've had a suggestion from a local citizen: With everyone out walking, and walking dogs, it would be nice to pick up trash – with gloves on! -- along the way, maybe 5 pieces per walk? https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-50th-anniversary/ **Celebrate Arbor Day with a #TREE CITY HUG** Submit photographs/ selfies of yourself hugging a favorite tree in Portsmouth. A gallery of the images will offer the City's virtual celebration of Arbor Day on April 24. Send photos to hotline@cityofportsmouth.com or post to social media with the hashtag #TreeCityHug

Thursday, April 23, 1-2 pm. Face Mask Drive! Donations of PPE Masks for Healthcare Workers/First Responders and Fabric Masks for Seniors. Collection center at the Community Campus tennis court parking lot. Drive up and leave the masks in the box. Brinn Sullivan, Senior Services Supervisor will be on site to collect them. Contact 603-767-2697 to coordinate or if you have any questions. If these times do not work, please call. All homemade masks are washed before being distributed. The City Health Officer reminds residents: **Wear cloth face masks in public. Reserve medical grade PPE for healthcare workers and first-responders. Directions for making your own face mask in 45 seconds, here.** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

A few additional recommendations, where possible, on cloth facemasks. They should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face;
- Be secured with ties or ear loops;
- Include multiple layers of fabric, preferably a tight weave material;
- Allow for breathing without restriction; and

- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

If you need a cloth face mask, pick one up at the Face Mask Donation Drive. Anyone in need of a homemade mask is welcome to attend the Drop off and Distribution Drive to receive a mask. Homemade masks can also be mailed to those who cannot attend the Distribution Drive. Please email or call Brinn and she will mail you a mask. 603-767-2697. bsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com

OTHER NEWS

Fire Department Issuing Burn Permits
As announced previously, all previously held Class I and II seasonal permits (backyard firepits and chinmeas, etc.) that expired on 12/31/2020 have been extended. They are now valid through June 30. The Department asks these permit holders not to seek renewal until July 1. For those seeking new seasonal Class I and II permits, as well as Class III permits (brush piles), a site visit to the burn location is required. As there continues to be restricted access to Portsmouth Fire Stations for firefighter safety, the Fire Chief asks that you please do not go to a fire station to seek a permit. **Please call 603-427-1515 during business hours and ask for the Shift Captain who will scheduled a**n appointment to visit your site. The permit fee is $10, cash or check made out to City of Portsmouth. For more information about Portsmouth Outdoor Burning Rules, click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/2020%20Outdoor%20Burning%20Rules%20%26%20Regulations.pdf.
For the NH Fire Safety guidelines, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/fire/fire-permitssafety-tips

Fire Chief Todd Germain Offers COVID-19 Emergency Management Update
Click here for the short video with Chief Germain, reporting as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator, on the Fire and Police Department response. https://youtu.be/3ZTGEmfrk8E

Tell first responders if anyone in the household is quarantined for COVID-19, either as a positive, or awaiting results from testing.

DPW Projects This Week
For the latest on individual projects, click here and then on the Projects tab.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks

- **PARROTT AVE PARKING LOT COMPLETED!** The lot has reopened.
- **BOW STREET REPAVING, TUESDAY, April 21.** Daniel Street to Chapel Street will be closed to through-traffic and no parking will be allowed in that section. A flagger will be in place to direct traffic around the Penhallow Street detour. The rest of Bow St. is unaffected.
- **BRIDGE STREET/HANOVER STREET** construction through Wed/Thur Apr 22-23.
- **ISLINGTON STREET & MAPLEWOOD AVE** work resumed on April 6
- **PRESCOTT PARK DOCK RAILING replacement work continues.** The dock remains closed.

#alonetogether does not mean "You're on your own."

Here are some quick links to additional resources including the Daily Advisory "Where to find answers" edition. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/Advisory%202020.04.15.pdf

Click on the banners at the top of the homepage. They include:

- Health-related information https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/coronavirus-preparedness
- Food aid, grocery resources and restaurant takeout options https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-food-resources
- Business and employee resources https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/economic/covid-19-response-resources-businesses-employees
- Archive of all City Manager Daily Advisories https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/city-manager-daily-updates
- For answers to other questions about the City's response to COVID-19, please email: hotline@cityofportsmouth.com
- For more information, visit City's page on COVID-19, https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-information

- For more information from the State of NH, call 2-1-1

Health Resources:

- Portsmouth Regional Hospital offers a Coronavirus Resource Hub on its website. https://portsmouthhospital.com/covid-19/?assessment=true
- ConvenientMD offers a Virtual Care portal and reminds residents they still provide non-COVID-19 emergency care, with strict guidelines for keeping all patients safe. https://convenientmd.com/virtual-visit
- The State of New Hampshire still offers guidance and answers COVID-19 related questions at the 2-1-1 line.

Employment security: File for unemployment **online** [https://www.nhes.nh.gov]/or by calling the hotline at **603-271-7700**. Your application appointment is based on the first letter of your last name. There are still delays in processing, but you should start seeing a check 9 days after filing. You must file weekly to receive weekly benefits.

- The CARES Act supplements your unemployment pay with a $600 per week benefit.
- Check out the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth's COVID-19 emergency Job Board. http://portsmouthcollaborative.org/jobs

Help for small businesses, including non-profits: For a Small Business Guide to the CARES Act relief program, click here. https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources#section-header-2

- **The City's Economic Development Department webpage dedicated to COVID-19** response information and resources covers Federal, State and local government programs, organizations and experts with answers to frequently asked questions about making it through and planning for recovery, and highlights webinars that drill down into very specific concerns. Visit the page frequently for updates. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/economic/covid-19-response-resources-businesses-employees
- **For information about business assistance resources,** the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth continues to support small businesses as they navigate through the challenges and resources of the COVID-19 disruption to our economy. New information is added daily:
    - Click here for **Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth** COVID-19 response pages.
    - **Click here** Portsmouth Calendar of helpful COVID-19 Resources.
    - And for hospitality businesses in particular, **www.GoPortsmouthNH.com**.
    - **Click here** for the Chamber's calendar of COVID-19 business webinars.
    - **Click here** for the Chamber's Job Board
    - Click here for Chamber Chat Live, Fridays at 1 pm produced by the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth**.** Join the conversation by registering to participate in the Zoom meetings. http://portsmouthcollaborative.org/events/details/chamber-chat-live-education-update-51138?calendarMonth=2020-04-01
- **Non-profits** will find useful information from the **NH Community Development Finance Authority** https://nhcdfa.org/covid-19-resources/ **The Business Finance Authority** started accepting applications for funding this week. https://nhbfa.com/

Self-quarantine for returned travelers: Follow these guidelines.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/Home%20Isolation%20and%20Quarantine%202020.04.09.pdf

Restaurant, grocery and pharmacy options:

- Local restaurants are also providing takeout service and delivery via GrubHub, DoorDash, TakeoutGuys and similar services. For a list of takeout options, click here. . https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/Restaurant%20Takeout%202020.04.08.pdf

- Local grocery stores and pharmacies have special hours for seniors and other immune-challenged people to shop when there are fewer people in the stores. For a list of options, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/FoodPharmacy%202020.04.20.pdf
- The Food and Drug Administration reassures consumers that there is currently no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with transmission of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Also, though your grocery store may be temporarily out of certain products, there are no nationwide shortages of food. Food production and manufacturing are spread throughout the United States. https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/shopping-food-during-covid-19-pandemic-information-consumers/?utm_campaign=FoodCOVID_Shopping_04152020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua
- Although COAST has suspended the regular fixed route services, Senior Transportation, ADA Service, Community Rides, and accessible Ready Rides are still in operation. https://coastbus.org/pst

Veterans: The VA Medical Center in Manchester urges veterans to use the VA's online tools for telehealth appointments, prescription needs, questions and automated text messages. As with all doctors' appointments, *call first*. Click here https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home for the VA's online patient portal. There's also a VideoConnect app. For more information on that, click here https://www.mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect For more general COVID-19-related information, click here. https://www.connectedcare.va.gov/

Additional food assistance:

- **GATHER, our local food pantry, can help**. **Pantry** hours are Mon, Tues, Wed: 10 am – 3 pm at 210 West Road #3 in Portsmouth. Fri: 9am-1pm at Community Campus, 100 Campus Drive in Portsmouth.
- **Operation Blessings** d**rive-up food pantry** at 600a Lafayette Rd. Wed-Fri, 10am to 4pm, for Portsmouth residents only. For more information, please call 603-430-8561. **Senior mobile food pantry** to the residents of the Portsmouth area, ages 62 and up, Mon-Sat 10am-4pm. Anyone who is interested please contact Tammy Joslyn at 603-988-2671
- **Meals on Wheels** makes deliveries to Portsmouth seniors on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with the extra meals for Tuesday and Thursday included in the delivery. Additionally, they will continue to deliver extra shelf-stable food and frozen meals, just in case. New customers are still being accepted, so please call 603-431-0561 to complete an application over the phone.
- **The Portsmouth School Department provides daily lunches, Monday though Friday, to schoolchildren**. See the schedule for pickup and drop-off, here: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/press-releases/portsmouth-schools-offering-breakfast-lunch-and-delivery-schedule-update. The School Department is also working with End 68 Hours of Hunger to supply weekend meals to food-insecure children.
- For other food resources, see this map. https://unhcoopext.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=5caa235e0e024beb8bebba50a0297d15#
- **The NH Local Welfare Administrators Association** has advised Portsmouth that SNAP (Food Stamp) benefits are being supplemented for the already approved clients who receive less than the maximum monthly benefit. Contact the City of Portsmouth Welfare Department for more assistance. Call 603-610-7267 or email WFDept@CityofPortsmouth.com

Support networks

- **Seacoast Mental Health** has geared up for exactly these challenges call 603-431-6703 or click here. https://smhc-nh.org/covid-19-updates/
- **SOS Recovery Community Organization** on the Seacoast is answering the phones Mon-Sat from 9 am to 8 pm and on Sunday, noon to 4 pm. Click here
- **The Doorway**, NH's substance-abuse treatment and recovery offers phone assistance during the week and teams with the statewide 2-1-1 system on weekends. https://thedoorway.nh.gov/home
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** in New Hampshire programs are operating by zoom and other work-arounds, including relying on each group's telephone hotline of other members. https://seacoastaa.org/meetings/
- **The NH Department of Health and Human Services** is alert to greater concerns about domestic and child abuse when families are confined to close quarters and under stress. For more information, click here.

https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/Family%20Well-Being%20Guide%20COVID-19.pdf

- **Seacoast Mental Health** has geared up for exactly these challenges call 603-431-6703 or click here.
- **Seacoast Pathway's virtual clubhouse supports adults living with mental illness** on their paths to recovery through a focus on health, wellness, employment-preparedness, and community fellowship. Click here www.seacoastpathways.org
- **Connections Peer Support in Portsmouth supports anyone over 18 with mental health issues.** They offer a "warm line" for support and connection Mon–Fri from 8:30am to 10:00pm and Sat/Sun from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. Also video conference groups, including a women's group, a young adults group, and a creativity group, among others. For information call 603-427-6966 or click here. http://connectionspeersupport.org/

City services while City Hall is closed. For the key contact information, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-information

- All of the City Departments are fully operational, though working with staggered shifts, reduced capacity and telecommuting physical-distancing. But pay bills online, click here. Contact the City Clerk's office for license renewals. https://www.invoicecloud.com/portal/(S(jstxdukwvet41atugusnhle2))/2/Site.aspx?G=0055530e-d1ee-4599-a935-a8e88ab5b845
- For licenses, birth and death certificates and other vital records, https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/cityclerk/birth-marriage-death-certificates **C**all or email the City Clerk at 603-610-7245 or cityclerk@cityofportsmouth.com
- City Boards, Commissions and Committees continue to conduct business via zoom and teleconference meetings. Check the Municipal Calendar on the City website homepage for specific dates, agendas and participation instructions.
- Take advantage of City services and resources, including free access to the Portsmouth Public Library (free library cards for residents!) and the treasures of the Recreation Department network of parks https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-03/3revClosedPlaygrounds%202020.03.26.pdf and off-leash dog parks. http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/maps/OffLeashArea.pdf Join the #TreeCityHug effort to prepare a virtual celebration of Arbor Day on April 24. Or Adopt-A-Spot. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/adopt-spot

What can I do to help?

- **Donate.** Food to GATHER. Empty plastic bottles (for homemade hand sanitizer) to Operation Blessings (contact Tammy Joslyn at 988-2671). Funds to your favorite non-profit. Time to health care workers, homeschooling/telecommuting parents. Additional suggestions: United Way of the Greater Seacoast, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund. United Way of the Greater Seacoast http://www.uwgs.org/covid-19-family-support-fund/ and New England Grassroots Environmental Fund https://grassrootsfund.org/dollars/rapid-response-funding
- **Volunteer: For those who need volunteers and those who want to volunteer,** sign up with VolunteerNH.org which is focusing on COVID-19 related relief right now. **Operation Blessings asks those who are interested in volunteering**, to please use this online system, click here.