

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UPDATE from the City Manager for Thursday, July 23, 2020

Portsmouth Protection Plan: Do your part. Wear a mask.

For the complete, new NH Department of Health & Human Services dashboard, [click here](#).

TESTING-- The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services provides this list as a service to the community. The Department does not endorse any particular entity for COVID-19 testing services. The cost of the test is the responsibility of the person being tested and each person should discuss insurance coverage and payment arrangements directly with the testing provider. Most health insurance plans cover testing for COVID-19 without a copay, coinsurance, or deductible. Persons who do not have insurance or have a health insurance plan that does not fully cover the cost of testing may have access to cover the costs of testing via a New Hampshire Medicaid Limited COVID-19 Testing Benefit. To apply online for the Testing Benefit, please visit NH EASY at <https://nheasy.nh.gov> and click on "COVID-19 Testing." Additional information about other DHHS programs and benefits, including different Medicaid plans that cover more than COVID-19 testing services, are on the NH EASY website.

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-testing-options.pdf>

PORTSMOUTH REOPENING EFFORT CREATES SPACES TO HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES – Citizen Response Task Force subcommittees are working in parallel to assist Portsmouth businesses with a cautious reopening that at the same time brings vibrancy back to Portsmouth streets and provides severely impacted businesses with new opportunities for salvaging some of the important summer season. **For more information, [click here](#) to visit the Citizen Response Task Force web page**, that provides the materials and resources the committee is using. All meetings are conducted publicly via zoom and are posted in advance on the City website homepage. To contact the Citizen Response Task Force, email via hotline@cityofportsmouth.com

BRIDGE STREET LOT CLOSED TO PARKING STARTING FRIDAY, JULY 24 – The PopUp Subcommittee is working with City departments and the arts non-profit to create a restaurant, retail and performing arts space in the Bridge Street lot. Anticipating an opening on July 30, the space hopes to operate Thursdays and Fridays, 3-10 pm; Saturdays noon-10 pm and Sundays noon-8pm. The Bridge Street Lot will be closed for parking for the next three months.

NEW STREET BARRICADES ON CONGRESS – The public realm space on Congress Street using parking spaces for protected outdoor dining now includes a larger area in front of Thirsty Moose and Rudi's to accommodate their use (and others') and shifts the 15-minute parking from angles spaces to parallel spaces next to the concrete barriers. A new outdoor dining area has also been created outside Goat, Flatbread and Jumpin' Jay's, removing one lane of traffic. The pedestrian lights at that intersection of Congress and Middle St./Maplewood Ave. have also been adjusted to reflect the new arrangement. The City has made public realm space available or is working on solutions for 26 restaurants. **For details on restaurants open for outside, inside and public realm outdoor dining, [click here](https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/restaurants-takeout-outdoor-dining).**

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE WORKING ON POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT FOR MASK WEARING – To assist the Citizen Response Task Force and their recommendations to the City Council the subcommittee continues to distribute information and creative ideas, including the new Mask Up New Hampshire materials, designed to encourage the wearing of cloth face coverings in public spaces where physical distancing is not possible. The Health Subcommittee has also created a localized COVID-19 case dashboard that is updated every Monday.

Click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-07/COVID%20ADJACENT%20COUNTIES%202020.07.21.pdf>

**PORTSMOUTH
PROTECTION
PLAN:
DO YOUR PART.
WEAR A MASK.**

The City Council passed a face covering resolution at their meeting on July 13 and held a Work Session on July 22 to discuss drafting an ordinance. After discussion and public input the Council asked the City Attorney to draft a face covering ordinance for their consideration at their August 3 meeting. [Governor Sununu and State Epidemiologist Dr. Ben Chan recommend that people wear masks](#), to protect the spread of COVID-19 to others. The City Health Officer and Citizen Response Task Force Health Subcommittee urge continued vigilance by residents and public-facing businesses in following CDC and State guidelines.

ECONOMIC RELIEF RESOURCES:

NOW OPEN: State of New Hampshire New Hampshire General Assistance & Preservation (GAP) Fund. The Governor has allocated and authorized \$30 million of CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (“flex funds”) to provide emergency financial relief to New Hampshire businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, who have not been able to access support from other existing state and federal programs.

- Application Period – July 21, 2020 – August 4, 2020
- Application Verification Period – August 5, 2020 – August 18, 2020

For more information, [click here](#).

NH SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESULTS OF BUSINESS RESILIENCY SURVEY -

- The University of New Hampshire Survey Center conducted a survey for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses throughout New Hampshire. By better understanding the challenges and needs of NH business owners, economic development partners can more effectively help businesses recover, reopen and become more resilient. For the full report, [click here](#). [Join Chamber Chat Live! on Friday, July 31 for a discussion on the survey and its analysis.](#)

BEHIND ON RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS DUE TO COVID-19? -- The Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery has announced the **New Hampshire Housing Relief Program, an initiative designed to keep people from losing their housing and to secure or maintain permanent housing in partnership with the Community Action Partnership for NH (CAPNH). Applications are available NOW.** To contact CAPNH, call 2-1-1 from any NH phone or [click here](#).

CLIPPER STRONG FUND -- Small businesses who would like to receive a **free Clipper Strong Fund Care Package** (containing disposable face masks, signage asking customers to wear masks and a touchless thermometer) should **send an email with the name of the business, location, phone and email contact to** hotline@cityofportsmouth.com Donations still welcome! [Click here](#) to make a donation online at ClipperStrong.org

Governor Sununu's "Safer At Home" guidelines continue. For the full details on the Governor's Executive Orders, [click here](#).

For all the COVID-related resources, [click here](#).

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](#).