



Information for the Residents of Boylston during the COVID-19 Outbreak

During this trying time the health and safety of the residents of Boylston is the number one priority. Below you will find information regarding the services of most town departments as well as some resources to help those who may need assistance. We encourage everyone to follow the guidelines laid out by the CDC and Governor Baker. In the meantime, your town is here for you and we encourage you to reach out with any needs. The contact information for all town departments is on the town website www.boyiston-ma.gov.

Boylston Fire Department

Regarding the COVID-19 virus, it is important that we stress that this isn't a time to panic and that residents should follow the guidance set forth by MA DPH and the CDC. Unfortunately, people get most of their information from social media and that isn't always the most accurate source. The BFD Facebook page has a link to the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) and that site has daily updates on the virus. In addition, there is information on the [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) site that links to MA DPH and CDC. The fire department has limited personal protective equipment to handle a few patients, if needed. We are in the process of trying to get additional equipment just in case there is a large influx of patients, although we hope that will not be the case. We believe if residents practice good hygiene and use common sense in terms of social distancing then the risk should be minimal. Please rely on the experts at the CDC and DPH for their information, rather than social media.

One thing that would be helpful for us would be that in the event that someone feels like they meet the criteria for exposure (flu-like symptoms, recent travel, or contact with someone who was exposed) that they let us know when they call 911 to request an ambulance. It is critical for us to know the potential exposure prior to us going into a home so that we can take the necessary precautions to protect our people.

Boylston Police Department

During this period of increased health challenges due to the flu or Coronavirus, the Boylston Police Department will continue to provide 24-hour, 7 day a week law enforcement support to the Town of Boylston. In an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 illness, our department will be taking the following steps immediately:

We will continue to respond to ALL emergency calls without delay. If you have an emergency, dial 911 and officers will respond as always!!!

If it is a non-emergency, you are encouraged to call the business line for assistance at 508-869-2113.

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Our dispatchers and/or police officers responding to your calls/homes may ask some pre-screen questions regarding potential illnesses before entering. These questions are not invasive and are meant to keep both you and our police officers safe during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Calls for police services will be screened to determine if an immediate police response is needed. In most cases, where applicable and possible, we will try to take reports via the telephone, especially where there is a past event (identity theft, credit card fraud, quality of life reports, etc).

Citizens who walk into our lobby will also be screened to determine if a phone report is applicable. In some cases, it may be appropriate to conduct an interview or take a report outside of the police station building and away from our common lobby area.

We encourage citizens to call our department via telephone ahead of time before travelling to the police station to make/file a report. In many cases, a police officer can and most often will take care of a citizen's needs by phone, and thus reduce the chance of spreading the COVID-19 illness.

Our department will be suspending taking ANY new License to Carry (LTC) applications. Renewal applications for all LTC applications will also be suspended unless your LTC is about to expire. If your current LTC is about to expire, please contact police dispatch (508-869-2113) and schedule an appointment with Sergeant Thomas. Please DO NOT enter our building to renew your LTC without an appointment.

ANY requests for copies of police reports should be made by calling the police station between the hours of 9:30AM and 3PM, Monday through Friday at 508-869-2113.

Fingerprint services (card) for the public will be suspended until further notice.

The Boylston Police Department sincerely regrets having to take these precautions. Our department takes great pride in being police officers and community caretakers for the Town of Boylston. The ever changing COVID-19 situation makes these precautions unfortunately necessary to keep our police officers, dispatchers and the public safe, while not hindering our ability to provide critical police services to you.

We anticipate taking these actions until March 30, 2020, when we will re-evaluate the ever-changing situation with the COVID-19 illness. Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated!

As always, thanks for your support and understanding. Stay well and be safe out there!

Board of Health

The hours of the BOH will remain consistent with town policy.

The sharps collection unfortunately will be suspended until the office re-opens for normal business. Please HOLD ON to your containers; we cannot accept them at this time. Should you need a new empty container, please call ahead and one will be delivered for you in the lobby.

The board is continuing to review plans and accept application and submissions. Please leave them in the front lobby of the Town Hall clearly marked "Board of Health". There is also the Board of Health Facebook page that is being updated by the BOH Chair as additional information is known.

You can continue to call the office number for inspections and additional information if needed.

Our contact information is as follows:

Telephone Number: 508-869-6828

Melanie Rich, Administrative Assistant - mrich@boylston-ma.gov

Dennis Costello, Health Agent - dcostello@boylston-ma.gov

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Council on Aging

The office will be staffed as it typically is. We have cancelled all COA programs & classes for 2 weeks (until 3/27/2020). We are planning on reassessing the situation after that. The van is operating for medical appointments only.

Berlin-Boylston Regional School District

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES

Governor Baker has ordered all MA Public Schools to be closed for three (3) weeks. In accordance with his order, the Berlin-Boylston Regional School District will be closed for three (3) weeks with a scheduled return on April 6, 2020.

Although the Governor's order begins on March 17, we will be closed beginning Monday, March 16 as originally planned. We will continue to update our website and staff will continue to engage our students while schools are closed.

Please email your school principal with any questions and thank you for your patience during this challenging time.

ALL SCHOOL EVENTS, SPORTS, FIELD TRIPS, AND FACILITY RENTALS ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Watch Governor Baker's Press Conference from Sunday, March 15, 2020, [here](#)

For more resources, please go to the resources link on the BBRSD.ORG website <https://www.bbrsd.org/>

For more information please contact your child's school directly:

Tahanto: 508-869-2333

Berlin Memorial: 978-838-2417

Boylston Elementary: 508-869-2200

Shopping Resources

First Congregational Church of Boylston

- There is a large group of people in Boylston who are available to pick up groceries/supplies and make deliveries to those who are not comfortable leaving their homes or need help with purchasing groceries, medicine or household supplies. If you are a senior citizen, immunocompromised, in financial need, or not feeling well PLEASE don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything!!
- To put in a help request, please call the Boylston First Congregational Church office at (508) 869-2027 on Monday-Friday from 9-12.
- On week-ends/evenings, please call or text 508-873-3750 or (508) 579-1725.
- Local churches and groups will be distributing this message via e-mail. Please pass this on to friends, family and neighbors who may need assistance and are not on social media.

Food Pantry Emergency

Please call or text to 508-579-1725 or to 508-868-2048.

** If you would like to be added to the volunteer list or donate, please message Michele Simler via Facebook Thank you!

Stop and Shop

"Effective on Thursday, March 19, Stop & Shop will create hours specifically geared to accommodate customers 60 and older," the company said in a statement. "Stop & Shop stores will open from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. ONLY for customers over the age of 60 who the CDC and local health officials say are most vulnerable." The company said it was making the decision to allow community members in this age category to shop in a less crowded environment, which better enables social distancing

Lions Club

The Boylston Lions Club has individuals available to help seniors with grocery and other shopping. Please emails sign@boylstonlionsclub.org to request assistance

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels and our transportation services will continue to operate through the Council on Aging at this time *for medical appointments only*, but may be subject to change. We are continuing to evaluate if we can provide a meal take out service to those who regularly come to the senior center to eat.

Town Hall

In response to the Coronavirus, and in consideration of information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the declaration of a State of Emergency in Massachusetts by Governor Baker on March 10, 2020, and the Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020, the Boylston Town Hall, Boylston Town House, and all other buildings with the exception of the Police and Fire Stations for emergency services will be closed to the public from Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 27th, 2020. The status will be evaluated at a later date if further closing is necessary. The staff will be available during normal hours of operation (Town Hall 8:00am – 2:00pm) Monday through Thursday to answer phone calls or email questions from the public.

The closure of the Town Hall will impact those seeking services from all departments operating at the Town Hall. Town offices may be contacted by telephone or e-mail. Please visit the Town website for a directory at www.boylston-ma.gov.

Residents and other interested parties can drop off bills, applications for permits and licenses at the drop box located at Town Hall and access other information and services at the Town Website. Payments by check will still be accepted through the drop box located to the right of the main entrance of the Town

Hall. Cash is not accepted. Department-specific operational changes will be posted to their respective webpage on the Town website www.boylston-ma.gov .

Light Department

The Light Department building is closed to the public, office staff and line crews will be working normal business hours.

- Lock box in lobby open 24hrs to drop off Light and Water payments, **NO CASH** please.
- All home energy audits thru the MUNI HELPS program are suspended until further notice.
- Per DPU request, the winter moratorium for shutting off service has been extended until the State of Emergency has been lifted.
- On-Line Banking for Light Department Payments only is available through the Town website

Office hours: 8am – 4pm, M-F

Phone # **1-508-869-2626**

Emergency # (rings to police dispatcher after office hours) – **1-508-869-6564**

Email – Office Manager, Sheila Miller, smiller@boylstonlight.org
Barbara Seed, bseed@boylstonlight.org
Manager, Mark Barakian, mbarakian@boylstonlight.org

Parks and Recreation

All Parks & Rec programs are canceled until further notice. The Hillside gym is also closed for all public use and rentals will be rescheduled when the gym is reopened.

If residents have any questions they can email me at Boylstonparks@boylston-ma.gov .

Board of Assessors

Motor Vehicle Excise:

- Application: Please fill out the application on the back of the bill or download from our website. (We can mail you one if needed.)
- Plate: We need to know what happened to the license plate, for example:
 - If plate was transferred to a new car, please provide a copy of the new registration.
 - If plate was cancelled, please provide a copy of the Plate Return Receipt from the registry.
- Vehicle: We need to know what happened to the vehicle, for example:
 - If Vehicle was traded in, please provide a copy of the Purchase and Sale agreement showing the trade (with the VIN)
 - If Vehicle was sold outright or junked, please provide a copy of the Bill of Sale.
 - If vehicle was totaled in an accident, please provide a copy of the letter from the insurance company.

Copies of property record cards as of Jan 1, 2020 can be found on our website, www.boylston-ma.gov.

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Boylston Public Library

There wasn't a dry eye between us when we closed up the library to find such encouraging chalk messages waiting for us in the parking lot. Thanks to everyone who stopped by the curbside pickup today to share well wishes, gratitude and baked goods! Times like these are a reminder that community is vital, and we are so lucky to serve such an amazing community. We can't wait to be back to offering our full services again and seeing all your faces. In the meantime, be on the lookout for our virtual offerings, call or message us with any questions, keep reading, and stay well!

You can also find virtual postings on our Facebook

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/boylstonlibrary/>

Public Notice to Taxpayers

If you are paying taxes you can either mail in the payment with the provided envelope, drop off the payment (checks only) to the drop box located at Town Hall, or pay online with your bank or through UniPay (town website). If you pay online with your bank please reference the bill number.

If you require a receipt you can either request one by email or send a self- addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

If you are experiencing a hardship due to the pandemic please call the office at 508-869-2972 during regular business hours or email ccox@boylston-ma.gov and we will be happy to answer any questions and provide whatever assistance that we can.