

Town of Georgetown

Donald C. Cudmore,
Police Chief and
Emergency Management
Director



Town Hall

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Georgetown, MA 01883



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

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Update #1 (1:30 p.m.)

Town of Georgetown Confirms First COVID-19 Cases

This version specifies that there are two confirmed cases in Georgetown. Both cases are from the same household.

GEORGETOWN -- Emergency Management Director and Police Chief Donald C. Cudmore and Town Administrator Michael Farrell reports that the Town of Georgetown has been notified by the Department of Public Health of the town's first two positive cases of COVID-19.

Georgetown public health officials were notified by DPH of the positive test results and have been in contact with both residents, who are members of the same household. The patients are in isolation and are recovering at home, per DPH orders. Public health officials are conducting contact tracing to identify and give guidelines to anyone who has been in close contact with the cases.

In order to protect the residents' medical privacy rights, no additional information will be disclosed about the patients.

Police, Fire and EMS Services

The Georgetown Police and Fire Departments are fully staffed and prepared to respond to any emergencies. Officers, firefighters and medics may appear different and may be wearing additional personal protective equipment (PPE) when responding to calls and their interactions with the public will be different, out of an abundance of caution and for the safety of first responders.

If emergency fire or medical services are needed, residents should inform the 911 dispatcher if they or anyone they have been in contact with is experiencing signs and symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 virus. The dispatcher should also be

alerted if individuals or anyone they live with or have come in contact with have been required to self-quarantine.

When requesting police, fire or emergency medical services, when possible, safe and feasible, residents may also be asked to meet first responders outside their homes.

All facilities, public buildings, parks and playgrounds in Georgetown are closed to the public, including Town Hall, Library, all school and town playgrounds, American Legion Park, the East Main Street recreation facility, Camp Denison, Harry Murch Park and the West Main Street fields.

Essential staff continue to work in the Town of Georgetown. Residents should plan to conduct their business with the town either by email or over the phone. Visit the Town's website at www.georgetownma.gov.

Social Distancing and Hygiene

The Town of Georgetown encourages residents to practice social distancing, and the town is urging private organizations to consider cancelling or rescheduling events that would gather large numbers of people or result in groups of people being in close proximity.

Social distancing means remaining at least six feet away from others, and Governor Baker has temporarily banned gatherings of more than 10 people.

Social distancing will help to minimize exposure among people, especially given that COVID-19 is highly contagious and people may be contagious prior to exhibiting symptoms.

Local, state and federal health officials are encouraging residents to take the following precautions to prevent infectious diseases, such as the flu and COVID-19, from spreading:

- Washing hands with soap and water, scrubbing hands for at least 20 seconds before rinsing or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol.
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces, including phones, tablets, keyboards, doorknobs, light switches, faucet handles, toilet flushers, countertops.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as lip balm, water bottles, eating utensils, etc.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing and then wash hands.
- Community members should stay home and avoid contact with others when experiencing flu-like symptoms including a fever of 100.4 and should remain home until symptom-free and/or fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Additional Guidelines

As always, if anyone displays [symptoms of COVID-19](#), including a fever, cough or shortness of breath, they should not come to work or school and they are advised to contact their primary care physician.

The DPH recommends that residents continue with good hygiene practices including:

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds including under your fingernails. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content) can be used when soap and water are not available.
- Keep your hands away from your face.

- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing with a tissue and discard it immediately. Cough into the sleeve over your elbow instead of your hand. Wash your hands often when coughing and sneezing.
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid social gatherings with large groups, particularly if you are over the age of 60, have underlying health conditions, a weakened immune system or are pregnant.

COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, has been declared a Global Pandemic by the World Health Organization and has moved Governor Baker to declare a State of Emergency and President Donald Trump to declare a National Emergency.

Residents are asked NOT to dial 911 for questions or concerns about coronavirus/COVID-19. The state has also set up the phone number 211 to answer questions that residents may have concerning COVID-19. If someone feels sick, they are asked to call their primary care provider as a first point of contact.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website [here](#) or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (DPH) website [here](#).

###



**Know the facts.
Protect yourself.
Stay well.**

COVID-19 Prevention

Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds



Use hand sanitizer



Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth



How COVID-19 Spreads

Respiratory droplets



Contaminated surfaces



People in close contact (6 feet)



People are thought to be at their most contagious when they are at their most symptomatic. Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus is spread.

If you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 for a prolonged period:

- Monitor your health. If you develop symptoms call ahead to your doctor.
- Call your local health department for further instructions.

Georgetown Health Department: 978-352-5720

COVID-19 Symptoms

Fever



Cough



Shortness of breath



Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

If you develop COVID-19 Symptoms

- Self-quarantine
- Call ahead to your doctor
- Cover your cough and sneeze
- Notify your local health department
- Wear a facemask
- Avoid others
- Avoid contact with those in your home including pets

Information compiled from:



SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT
1**

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT
2**

For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT
3**

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



CS-20146-4 05/14/2020

**FACT
4**

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

**FACT
5**

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)

COMPARTA LA INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL COVID-19

Infórmese sobre la enfermedad del coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) y ayude a detener los rumores.

DATO
1

Las enfermedades pueden afectar a cualquier persona, sin importar su raza o grupo étnico.

El miedo y la ansiedad relacionados con el COVID-19 pueden provocar que la gente evite o rechace a otras personas aun cuando no estén en riesgo de propagar el virus.

DATO
2

Para la mayoría de las personas, se piensa que el riesgo inmediato de enfermarse gravemente por el virus que causa el COVID-19 es bajo.

Los adultos mayores y las personas de cualquier edad que tengan afecciones graves subyacentes podrían tener un mayor riesgo de presentar complicaciones más graves a causa del COVID-19.

DATO
3

Alguien que haya completado el periodo de cuarentena o que ya salió del aislamiento no presenta un riesgo de infección para las demás personas.

Para obtener información actualizada, visite la página web de los CDC sobre la enfermedad del coronavirus 2019.



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DATO
4

Hay cosas simples que puede hacer para ayudar a que usted y los demás se mantengan sanos.

- Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos, especialmente después de sonarse la nariz, toser o estornudar; después de ir al baño; y antes de comer o preparar la comida.
- Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca con las manos sin lavar.
- Quédese en casa si está enfermo.
- Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable al toser o estornudar y luego bótelos a la basura.

DATO
5

Usted puede ayudar a detener el COVID-19 conociendo los signos y los síntomas:

- Fiebre
- Tos
- Dificultad para respirar

Consulte a un médico si le ocurre lo siguiente:

- Tiene síntomas

Y

- Ha estado en contacto cercano con una persona que se sepa que tiene el COVID-19, o si usted vive o ha estado recientemente en un área con propagación en curso del COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19-es

A message from the Town of Georgetown

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