

**We want to assure everyone we are working diligently to keep our community safe and healthy.**

With that in mind on March 12, 2020 the Selectboard, Emergency Management Director, Police Chief, and Chairman of the Board of Health formed the COVID-19 Workgroup.

The first meeting held at the Public Safety Complex was to assess the overall ability for Town of Cummington to safely deal with this pandemic, in advance of it impacting our small rural community. What is abundantly clear is that COVID-19 knows no borders.

The Group discussed the potential impacts the virus may have on the entire community, focusing on the most vulnerable; seniors and those with pre-existing health conditions. Both factors that make it potentially more difficult to fight the disease.

The COVID-19 Workgroup has been working extensively, via Conference Call, other means of remote contact daily, constantly assessing our community's overall situation and address potential threats as necessary. We are working closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network) and our neighboring communities to ensure we are all properly informed. Communication with neighboring towns has been critical, not only in obtaining information relevant to our area, but matters that directly impact The Town of Cummington.

The Workgroup continues to diligently process information received from various sources throughout each day. This information is continuously vetted and followed up on

If you feel well, have no symptoms or fever, you should still remain at home, as much as possible, but also go for walks, drives, exercise or anything you normally would, just follow all the basics ie.

**Maintain six foot distance, wash hands regularly, do not use public transportation, if possible, don't have guests or family in your home unless you are sure about their habits and potential exposure, go shopping for essentials when necessary, facial cover if available, do not touch your face – use basic common sense. If you are sick, stay at home**

**We need to remain removed from potential exposures, while having increased communication with our families, children, friends and neighbors.**

**Also, please understand that false or inaccurate information spread through unofficial channels not only makes it harder to track the virus, it creates unnecessary fear and confusion. Assure children we are safe but must follow guidelines. During these difficult and ever-changing times please ensure the information you are getting is coming from an accurate and trusted source**

To date, the Town of Cummington has one confirmed case of COVID-19 in quarantine; one case of COVID-19 exposure, in quarantine; one case of travel related 14-day quarantine, completed.

Cummington Emergency Services (Police & Fire) stand equipped and ready to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. During this time some protocols have changed, they will be donning personal protective equipment (PPE), limiting the amount of personal interaction, all with the focus on keeping responders and our community safe.

Our town's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been activated, volunteers have conducted wellness checks and surveys households listed with the Council on Aging. Further, CERT has launched a Community Help Network in partnership with volunteers from the community. To date the network has matched volunteers with residents for regular check-in and companionship phone calls, is assisting with essential shopping and prescription pick-up for residents and has resources for food relief for anyone in need. If you want to volunteer or need non-emergent help through the network, please call Sarah and Lee Fournier at (413) 634-5452 or email: [CummingtonCERTCVHelp@gmail.com](mailto:CummingtonCERTCVHelp@gmail.com).

If you have information about a case or possible case of COVID-19 please reach out to the Cummington Board of Health at (413) 634.0056 or via email: [boh@cummington-ma.gov](mailto:boh@cummington-ma.gov). They have the authority and means to follow any leads brought to their attention.

If at any time, you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the COVID-19 Workgroup through the Police Department Business Line at (413) 634-0056. To report emergencies, please DIAL 911

Stay Safe, Make Healthy Choices and Please Connect with Family, Friends and Neighbors during this difficult and stressful time. We are all navigating this situation together.

**The Cummington COVID-19 Workgroup**

William Adams – Selectboard Chair

Monica Vandoloski – Selectboard

Eliza Dragon – Selectboard

James Wettereau – Board of Health Chair

Adam Dragon – Fire Chief/Emergency Mgr.

Michael Perkins – Police Chief