

COVID-19 Work Group – Community Update 3 - April 20, 2020  
We are working diligently to keep our community safe and healthy

We must continue to stay vigilant with hand-washing and maintaining Social / Physical Distance. Travel only for essential needs, such as groceries or prescriptions, call and check on your neighbors. Obtain information from reliable sources.

A sweet and enjoyable game is being played around the world and throughout our nation to comfort and entertain children during the current pandemic. You can participate too. All you have to do is put a teddy bear (or other stuffed animal) or a picture/drawing of a rainbow, in a window, on a porch or in a yard that faces a road. Please feel free to be as creative as you wish with these displays and if you have a child at home, get them involved too! When kids are out for a walk or drive, they can see how many teddy bears, stuffed animals or rainbows they can find! These fun displays send a message to children and adults alike "We're here. We're all connected. We're all going to get through this together. Even if, for the moment, we have to stay far apart."

Does your child have a birthday coming up? Let us help make their special day even better by having a Police car and Fire Truck drive by your house to arrange a ride by birthday greeting from the Cummington Emergency Services (Police+Fire) call 634-0333 to set up a date and time.

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. If you are sick, stay at home. However, we still need to remain removed from potential exposures, while having increased communication with our families, children, friends and neighbors.

Cummington CERT and Community help network are offering prescription pick-up and delivery as needed. Also local grocery deliveries on Tuesdays and Fridays. Orders must be in by Monday and Thursday by 2pm. Please email [cummingtoncertcvhelp@gmail.com](mailto:cummingtoncertcvhelp@gmail.com) or call 634-5452 to arrange a delivery.

MAVEN – The Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network was deployed in 2006 by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Bureau of Infectious Disease to serve as an integrated, Web-based disease surveillance and case management system. MAVEN replaced many stand-alone databases that were inaccessible to local Boards of Health. As of November 2013, more than 324 (92.3%) local Boards of Health were using the system. Data flows to MAVEN from physicians, laboratories, and individual participating Boards of Health. MAVEN tracks infectious disease throughout the Commonwealth with a goal of limiting spread through an understanding of disease transmission. Hepatitis, food poisoning, HIV, and tuberculosis, are among the communicable diseases tracked by MAVEN on a 24/7/365 basis.

MAVEN's existence makes the tracking of Covid 19 much less complicated, as the tracking system was already tested and in place. Any diagnosed case of Covid 19, as confirmed by laboratory testing, is automatically entered into the MAVEN system. This takes place within 30 minutes of a positive test result. The case then appears on the list for the authorized member of the BOH in the community in which the patient resides. An e-mail / phone call goes to that community so the alert is virtually immediate. In the case of viruses like Covid 19, the responsibility for discovering who may have had contact with the affected person is shared by the MDPH and the local representative. Rules for follow-up and tracking were already established, and in the specific case of Covid 19, have been updated regularly, often daily.

The Town of Cummington utilizes the MAVEN service. MAVEN is detailed, continuously moderated by MDPH, and responsive. Questions to them usually are answered within 30 minutes, despite a tremendous volume of queries. Between the local BOH and the assistance of the MDPH through MAVEN, we will continue to do the best job possible of maintaining the health of our community.

Currently the Town of Cummington has 2 cases of confirmed COVID-19.

The following are proposed dates for Town functions- location to be determined.

Town Caucus - May 11; Annual Town Meeting - June 19; Town Election - June 29

#### Current Status of Town Services

Closed - Pettingill Park; Community House; Berkshire Trail; Safety Complex, Bryant Free Library

Open - Transfer Station – Wed. 5:30-7:30; Sat. 7:00-11:00; Post Office 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00; Sat. 9-12

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.

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. Residents who are not connected to the Town's Reverse 911 Call System or Robo Calls and wish to be added may send an email to: [Selectboard@cummington-ma.gov](mailto:Selectboard@cummington-ma.gov) or call 413.634.5354 with your complete Name, Address and Phone Number ( Cell or Home).

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