



Non-Essential Businesses Closed Until May 4



PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 537 recently made donations of extra gloves, goggles, and face shields to Manet Community Health Center for frontline workers fighting COVID-19. Here Local 537 Business Manager Tom Kerr drops off the donations. Photo Courtesy Joshua Wolfson

The Baker-Polito Administration Tuesday announced several updates related to the COVID-19 outbreak including extending the non-essential business emergency order and guidance for Executive Branch employees until May 4.

The Department of Public Health's Stay-At-Home Advisory remains in effect. The Administration also updated the "COVID-19 Essential Services" categories for businesses and other organizations that provide essential services and workforces related to COVID-19 that are permitted to operate brick and mortar facilities during the emergency.

Essential Services Order: Governor Charlie Baker's emergency order requiring that all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public will be

extended until May 4. Businesses and organizations not on the list of essential services are encouraged to continue operations through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter or appear at the brick-and-mortar premises closed by the order. This order also prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people until May 4th.

The Administration updated the "COVID-19 Essential Services" list Tuesday, which is based on federal guidance that was updated earlier this week. The new list went into effect Wednesday (April 1), at noon. While these businesses are designated as essential, they are urged to follow social distancing protocols for workers in accordance with guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Some of the updates to the essential services list include:

- Clarity around the supply chain that supports other essential services

• Adding health care providers like chiropractors and optometrists

• Expanding the types of workers providing disinfectant and sanitation services

Hotel/Motel Guidance: As part of the updated essential business list, DPH issued new guidance today around hotels, motels, inns, beds and breakfasts and other short-term residential rentals. Based on this new guidance, hotels, motels, and short-term rentals may only be used for efforts related to fighting COVID-19, like front line health workers or individuals, or for Massachusetts residents who have been otherwise displaced from their residences.

Stay at Home Advisory: Last week, Governor Charlie Baker directed DPH to issue a stay-at-home advisory, and the Governor announced today that the advisory will remain in effect. Residents are advised to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary person to per-

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7 Deaths, 105 Cases Here

Due Date For 4th Quarter Property Taxes Extended To June 1

By ROBERT BOSWORTH
Seven residents have passed away from complications due to the COVID-19 virus and the number of presumptive and confirmed cases surpassed the 100

mark on Tuesday with 105 presumptive and confirmed. The city also reported Tuesday that 28 residents with symptoms of COVID-19 have recovered from the virus.

Statewide, there have been 89 deaths attributed to COVID-19 and 6,620 cases as of Tuesday. The death toll from the virus increased by 33 in one day according to the state.

Counties with the highest number of reported coronavirus cases are Suffolk which includes the City of Boston with 1,373, Middlesex (1,340) and Norfolk (738).

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DA Morrissey Responds To COVID-19 Threat

Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey has been actively working to decrease the number of people being taken into custody and releasing medically fragile defendants in response to the threat of COVID-19 transmission in penal institutions.

"The first thing I did was reach out to my 27 police chiefs to ask that, wherever possible, they avoid arresting on new charges and instead summons defendants to court at a future date when the threat of transmission has abated," Morrissey said. "The result has been a marked decrease in the matters being brought in for arraignment, and I am very thankful to the chiefs for their cooperation."

Morrissey has also been asking defense attorneys with clients who are being held on bail for non-violent crimes to bring those cases forward for review – particularly if the defendant has an underlying medical

issue or age-related risk factor. "We have been able to agree to more than 70% of the cases brought forward," Morrissey said. "We have seen stalking matters and cases where there would be an unacceptable threat to a victim, and those we have asked the court to consider more closely."

Morrissey said he has been disappointed in the slow pace of cases being brought forward.

"We have the judges and assistant district attorneys in place in our courthouses to be handling at least two or three times as many petitions as we are seeing per day," Morrissey said. "To that end, we have established a hotline number and email address and sent it out to all of the relevant bar associations asking them to bring these matters forward."

The high degree of communicability of COVID-19 plus the necessarily close

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COVID-19 INFORMATION

City of Quincy

