

Town of Ludlow – Press Release

April 3, 2020

This is Derek DeBarge, your Chairman of the Board of Selectmen with your weekly update regarding the Coronavirus pandemic and how it relates to our Town operations and all of us.

In Governor Baker's statement on April 2, there is some important information that I'd like to pass on to everyone regarding the projected surge in positive cases of COVID-19 on our State. The number of confirmed cases could range from 47,000 to 172,000. The models show hospitalizations would potentially peak between April 10th and 20th. The current fatality rate in Massachusetts is lower than in other areas at 1.5% of those infected. You can see further updates at www.Mass.Gov and www.CDC.Gov as well as our own website at www.ludlow.ma.us

Our Town Election will now be held on Monday, June 1, 2020. Our Annual Town Meeting normally scheduled in May will most likely be postponed to June as well.

From our Department of Public Works: Our Town Transfer Station and Compost Dump is now open from 11:00am to 3:00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. If you have a 2019 dump sticker, it will be honored. If you do not have a sticker, simply have your vehicle registration ready to show the attendant and you will be allowed in. If you have bulk items to dump, you must pay by check only, cash will not be accepted. Please email our Town Building Inspector for any required inspections at jarivee@ludlow.ma.us

In our community, we currently have (11) confirmed positive COVID-19 cases reported from area hospitals to our Board of Health. This, however, does not reflect a true number of those that may be infected. If you are experiencing symptoms that are not severe enough to require hospitalization, we urge you to contact your doctor, in most cases, they will recommend that you stay home and quarantine for 14 days. Our confirmed cases continue to rise, and I think it is safe to say that our infected numbers (without tests) are larger. It is for this reason that we must all take responsibility for ourselves and those in our charge to stay home. We can call/facetime/or online chat with friends and loved ones. If you do go out: avoid crowds, stay 6 feet away from others, and don't shake hands or hug. Kids should not be gathering in groups on any fields, parking lots, or anywhere for that matter. We were forced to take steps at our local parks and school play grounds by removing basketball hoops, dropping tennis court nets, and cordoning off playscapes so that none are tempted to use them. We all understand that it's not easy to stay in, especially for our kids. I have a 20-year-old and a teenager myself. They get bored, sure, but we do what we can to entertain ourselves and pass the time together. My experiences throughout my career, especially in the service has been that if you are not part of the solution, you are part of problem. I said in my last call that Ludlow is forever strong, and I meant that, so let's work together and be part of the solution.

Thank you,

Derek G. DeBarge

Chairman, Board of Selectmen