



# TOWN OF HATFIELD

MEMORIAL TOWN HALL

59 Main Street

Hatfield, MA 01038

Telephone: 413-247-9200 ext. 105

Fax: 413-247-5029

## **Board of Health**

Kerry Flaherty, Chair

Jeffrey Zygrodnik

Robert Osley

May 18, 2020

This is a message from the Town of Hatfield. As cases of the COVID-19 Coronavirus continue to increase, The Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen feel it is important we take measures to protect our employees and residents to reduce the spread of the virus. Per the Governor's reopening in phase's order, which was issued today May 18, 2020, the Town of Hatfield will be taking its steps with the guidance of the state on reopening municipal offices with set protocols and guidelines in the next week. The Town has a goal of opening offices up to the public for access, with a two day a week start and hope to begin the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be more information coming to the residents in the next week.

As of today, Monday, May 18, 2020 the Town of Hatfield has 0 new case, totaling 10 for the town, and 8 have been released from quarantine. All CDC and Department of Public Health guidelines are being followed in regards to these cases. Please, follow the CDC guidelines and adhere to the 6' social distancing recommendations and if not able to do that you MUST be wearing a mask or mouth and nose coverage, wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use alcohol based hand sanitizers.

There is a process for how we find out confirmed cases in the town. Anyone who is tested, the test results go directly through the Department of Public Health, where then we are notified of both positive and negative cases, which can take 48-72 hours before we are notified. From there if it is a confirmed case the Board of Health has a list of questions and follow-up that has to be completed, one of which is figuring out a contact list the person who is positive has had with others, and then we have to contact those people or the towns they live in to advise they could have been exposed. The Board of Health can't and won't give out names of people or their addresses for positive confirmed cases, which is a HIPAA violation. If the person themselves wants to be telling people they tested positive that is completely their right, but that information will not come from the Board of Health.

The town will be providing updates every Monday evening as new information becomes available. Residents are encouraged to go to the town website and click on the CodeRed link on the home page and register to make sure you get all emergency notifications from the town. Please reach out to the Board of Health, Fire Chief/Emergency Manager, Police Chief or a Board of Selectmen if you have any questions or concerns and we will answer things the best we can. These departments have been working very closely, along with the School Department to keep everyone informed, safe, and healthy the best we possibly can.

Stay healthy, Stay safe

Kerry Flaherty