



**TOWN OF SHARON**  
90 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS 02067

**TOWN OF SHARON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE**  
**MARCH 16, 2020**

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Today, March 16, 2020, the Town has declared a local state of emergency in response to the actions to be taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of the ever-evolving situation here in the Commonwealth, the difficult decision has been made to close all town buildings to the public, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, until further notice. All town activities/programs are cancelled, as well. This decision is being made out of an abundance of caution to attempt to limit in-person contact while also continuing to provide basic services to residents and business owners. The Town has also begun to take the necessary steps to cancel non-essential government meetings.

While we certainly understand this situation is not ideal, we are proceeding with the well-being of our citizens and staff in mind. We encourage everyone to closely follow information from the Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH), Sharon Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and exercise good judgement and caution.

We are asking that the public use our on-line resources for on-line payment and contact us via email and telephone with any questions that you may have for us. Essential business with the Town requiring an in-person transaction must be conducted by appointment through each department. Residents are encouraged to use the on-line services and the drop box in the vestibule of Town Hall for bill payment. Again, other business will be conducted by phone or email.

Please see the telephone contact numbers below for frequently visited departments:

Assessors	781-784-1500 x1207
Conservation	781-784-1511
Council on Aging & Social Services	781-784-8000
Department of Public Works (including Building & Water)	781-784-1525
Fire Department (business line)	781-784-1522
Health Department	781-784-1500 x1206
Library	781-784-1578
Police Department (business line)	781-784-1587
Recreation Department	781-784-1530
Town Administrator/Select Board	781-784-1500 x1208
Town Clerk	781-784-1500 x1201
Treasurer/Tax Collector	781-784-1500 x1200
Veterans Services	781-784-1500 x1180

**Assessor's Office**

- The Assessors' Office will continue to process auto excise abatements. Documentation may be sent via USPS or emailed to [AOFFICE@townofsharon.org](mailto:AOFFICE@townofsharon.org).
- Call the office or email with any questions regarding personal exemptions.
- Real & Personal Property abatement requests will continue to be processed within the required 3 month timeframe.

### **Collector's Office**

- The Town's online payment systems allows residents to pay real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes online, in addition to paying water bills.  
<https://www.townofsharon.net/home/pages/online-payments>
- The payment drop box continues to be available 24/7 in the vestibule of Town Hall.

### **Council on Aging/Adult Center**

- Staff will be available to handle phone calls, and transportation for medical appointments and shopping is still available by appointment; please call as you normally do. All other programs are cancelled.

### **Department of Public Works/Building/Water**

- The DPW will continue to provide building, electrical and plumbing inspections by appointment only 781-784-1525 ext. 2310.
- The Water Department will continue to perform reads for passing in most instances. Call the office 781-784-1525 ext. 2315 to determine if a photo of the meter face is acceptable.
- In most cases, an emailed photo of a meter will be acceptable for a bill dispute.
- Pothole, road/sidewalk damage and tree damage can be reported via the Town website home page "Report a Concern" tab: <https://www.townofsharon.net/department-of-public-works/pages/report-a-concern-through-commonwealth-connect>
- Trash and recycling questions should be directed to 781-784-1525 ext. 2314.
- Access to the DPW dumpsters are suspended.

### **Fire/Building Inspections**

- Time-sensitive fire/building inspections will be completed, but please call to schedule an appointment.

### **Police Department**

- Until further notice, we are asking citizens to avoid coming into the lobby of the police department, unless it is a case of an emergency.
- We will be temporarily allowing our officers to take reports over the phone for any issues or incidents that we feel would not require a visit to your home. Some examples could be neighbor disputes/civil matters, calls for advice, credit card/identity theft, and animal matters that are not a threat to public safety.
- No citizen fingerprints will be taken at the station until further notice.
- We are not accepting any food items for police until further notice.
- If you have a situation that can be resolved over the phone by speaking with a police officer, please call our business line at 781-784-1587. Please continue to use 911 for all emergencies and medical calls.

### **Public Library**

- All library services are suspended, including delivery and pick-up of materials.
- Visit [www.sharonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.sharonpubliclibrary.org) for Old Colony Library Network's latest updates.
- Online resources and remote access through Overdrive/Libby, hoopla digital, RBdigital and The New York Times remain available.
- Fines will not be charged on overdue materials.
- If you have any questions about remote access; how to use Overdrive, Libby, or other e-services; or need assistance troubleshooting, please check our Help & Support page (<https://sharonpubliclibrary.org/ebookshelp.asp>) or email us at [sharonlibraryma@gmail.com](mailto:sharonlibraryma@gmail.com).

## **Recreation Department & Recreation Facilities**

- Recreation Programming: All recreation programming will be cancelled until further notice. Under normal circumstances Recreation programs run concurrent with Sharon Public Schools, which have closed through April 6th under direction of Governor Charlie Baker. We are working with vendors and instructors to explore options of extending sessions, and/or offering refunds and credits. We appreciate your patience as we determine the course of action for each program.
- Dr. Walter A. Griffin Playground: The playground will be closed to the public until further notice. We have determined that play structures and park furniture are not sterile surfaces nor suitable locations for social distancing. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.
- Recreation office: As part of the overall closure of the Sharon Community Center to the public, the Recreation office will not be physically open to the public. Recreation Department staff will be able to answer e-mails and phone calls at this time.
- Field Permitting: All field permitting has been temporarily suspended until further notice.

## **Town Clerk's Office**

- You may register to vote, update your address and/or party, update your name or check registration information by visiting the Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration System: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.
- Town census forms should either be mailed or placed in the drop box in the vestibule at Town Hall.
- The Town's online payment systems allows residents to renew dog licenses: <https://www.townofsharon.net/home/pages/online-payments>
- For all other essential transactions, such as marriage licenses, please call the Town Clerk's Office to schedule an appointment. Notary Public services will not be performed.

## **Essential Government Meetings**

Only essential meetings are to take place, and will be done so remotely, in keeping with Governor Baker's March 15, 2020 order limiting gatherings to 25 or less persons. Agendas will continue to be physically posted in the vestibule at Town Hall and on the Town's website. Instructions will be included on each agenda so that the public may observe and participate in these meetings, as if they were in the audience.

## **Miscellaneous**

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued guidance on March 15, 2020 that authorizes licensed pharmacies to create and sell hand sanitizer over the counter. Please contact your local pharmacy to inquire if they have availability.
- The food pantry at the First Congregational Church (29 North Main Street) is open Monday – Friday from 10:00am – 2:00pm. They are need of non-perishable items, including but not limited to cereal, boxed milk, tomato sauce, snacks for children, baking goods (i.e. flour, sugar, etc.) as well as personal care items.
- The MBTA and Keolis announced a Reduced Service Schedule effective Tuesday, March 17. For more information, please visit [www.MBTA.com/coronavirus](http://www.MBTA.com/coronavirus).

## **As a reminder:**

- Take every day precautionary actions to avoid the spread of respiratory viruses like the flu and COVID-19, such as washing your hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and warm water (or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available), avoiding people who are sick, avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth, and covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue. People who are sick should stay home and not go into crowded public places or visit people in hospitals.
- Anyone who is experiencing a fever and/or respiratory illness and is concerned they have either come into contact with the virus or traveled to an affected country within the last 14 days is advised to contact their primary health care provider.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Get the flu vaccine.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Think about your own personal preparedness for you and your family (<https://www.mass.gov/know-plan-prepare>).

For the most up-to-date public health information, please visit these websites:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health – <http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization – <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Massachusetts 2-1-1 – <https://www.211info.org/corona-virus>

Mass.gov: Know, Plan, Prepare – <https://www.mass.gov/know-plan-prepare>

The Town continues to monitor this situation very closely and will provide further updates on the town's website and various social media platforms as new information becomes available:

Town Website – <https://www.townofsharon.net/>

Town Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/TownofSharonMA/>

Town Twitter – <https://twitter.com/townofsharonma>

For school news and updates:

School Website – <https://www.sharon.k12.ma.us/>

School Twitter – <https://twitter.com/SharonSchools>

Thank you for your patience and efforts as we navigate this ever-changing situation.