Overall Status: Significant Risk

Plan Name: COVID-19 Response

Daily Update for: 17 April 2020 (changes noted in blue text, links in red text)

Current News / Situation

- Templeton is in a state of emergency (16 MAR 2020); The Town Administrator (also the Incident Commander) has extended the closure of town offices until May 4th.
- Priorities in community: Personal Protective Equipment, Food Pantry (donations), Critical Staff
- The Alliance Health Long Term Care facility has sustained an elevated amount of positive COVID-19 cases. The facility is better known as the 'Baldwinville Nursing Home' and has, like many Massachusetts Nursing Homes, struggled with a difficult reality that vulnerable populations in institutional settings are difficult to manage. The MA Department of Public Health, the Montachusett Public Health Network, and the Templeton Health Team are working together to assist the Alliance Health staff in reducing the surge in cases. Testing is the most important aspect of this reduction effort and the Massachusetts National Guard has been assisting at this facility.
- COVID-19 symptoms of this infection may appear 2-14 days after exposure and include: Fever, Cough, and shortness of breath, and in severe cases, pneumonia (fluid in the lungs). Call your healthcare professional if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19. Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- The Public Safety Parade scheduled for Saturday, April 18th at noon has been postponed until further notice due to significant concerns in relation to COVID-19. We have been in talks with both the Police and Fire Chief; due to the increasing size, the need to postponement is in the best interests of all.

COVID-19 Statistics

 MA DPH has ruled on reporting COVID-19 related statistics; the state will be responsible for publishing <u>state/county/city/town</u>. (click on link for all town report)

*Rates are from CDC and MDPH.

THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON 1

Change rates below are from last report 4/16:

- National Cases: 661,712 (+29,164)
- MA State Cases: 34,402 (+2,221)
- Worcester County Cases: 2,765 (+262)



Town Offices and Partner Status:

- Town Hall: closed for public access until 4 May; use the website for transactions or call; Safety of citizens during any future elections being planned for, supplies ordered; next BoS meeting 4/22 @6:30pm (on-line);
- Board of Health; participated in DPH call on 4/17
- NRSD Facilities: closed for school session until 4 May; Central Office (978) 939-5661; on-line classroom learning in use; 1st wave of Chromebook distribution commenced (survey)

THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON 2

- Senior Center/COA: closed; minimally staffed; questions on the federal stimulus package have been received; EMD, CERT, and Senior Services have enabled a targeted 'wellness call' program;
- Food Pantry: open Tuesday 9-12am, Thursday 12-3pm and 5-7pm with specific instructions; Located in back of Senior Center; Donations (food and money) are still needed, checks may be made out to: Town of Templeton ("Food Pantry" in the memo); Worcester Food Bank resources filter thru Gardner Community Action Council and Heywood Hospital (50 food boxes deliverd as of Tuesday); Red Apple Farm, Growing Places (Leominster), and our generous community have given; our food pantry was just commended by area representatives as, "one of the most impressive and organized around."; weekend hours are being discussed.
- Emergency Services: vestibules only; sign up for CodeRed on town website or text "templetonma" to 99411 or call (866) 939-0911; working final phase and developing the re-occurring wellness checks plan with CERT and TFD
- DPW: full operations; office closed to public; cemeteries are closed for new burials; playgrounds closed
- TCTV: Cable Station 8, <u>YouTube Channel</u>;

Citizen Resources

- MA State resource for push notifications on coronavirus: text "COVIDMA" to 888-777
- 2-1-1 call center; phone service has long wait times; recommend using chat or local resources

Contact / Information

Board of Health (978) 894-2770

Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen (978) 894-2755

Town Website: www.templetonma.gov

MA DPH: www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health

Town Official Social Media: www.facebook.com/TownofTempleton/

THE TOWN OF TEMPLETON 3