



NOTICE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Issued March 13, 2020 @ 7:30 p.m.

On March 10 Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the threat to public health posed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and this afternoon President Trump declared it a “national emergency.” Locally, be assured that Athol’s elected and appointed officials have been and continue to actively monitor this rapidly evolving situation and its potential impacts on the citizenry.

Local Response

Town officials are in regular communication with the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health (DPH), Athol Hospital / Heywood Healthcare, the Athol-Royalston Regional School District and neighboring jurisdictions to share accurate information with the community and to make recommendations based upon the latest data and the best interests and safety of all.

On March 17, the Board of Selectmen will hear a recommendation from the Town Manager, Health Agent, Fire Chief and Police Chief to cancel existing events in public buildings and events that require a permit from the Town until further notice. This will include staples of the community such as the River Rat Race, the parade, carnival and associated events. The Town Manager has also issued protocols for staff, and departments are updating their continuity of operations plans to ensure that local government can provide essential functions in the event the virus impacts staffing levels.

What Can You Do?

Responsible citizens can have a significant impact in protecting themselves and limiting the spread of the disease by following proven steps recommended by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

According to the CDC, patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of: fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you have these symptoms contact your primary care provider. You may also dial “211” for resources, or, call Tully Walk-in Care at 978-248-8558 in advance.

More Information

Go to www.athol-ma.gov and click on the Coronavirus link for concise fact sheets from the CDC and DPH. You can also link directly to the DPH Web site for more detailed information. Please be safe and healthy.