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COVID-19 UPDATE

Two Additional Framingham Residents Test Positive for COVID-19, Bringing Total to 145; Framingham Temporarily Closes Farm Pond Parking Lot to Further Encourage Social Distancing

- Two more people test positive for COVID-19: The number of people in the City who have tested positive for COVID-19 is now 145. With 21 cases recovered and five fatalities, Framingham currently has 119 active cases. Following the guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Framingham Department of Health has not shared any additional information about those who have tested positive because of privacy laws. The Department contacts the people who were potentially exposed and the owners of the businesses or places of employment where the potential exposures occurred to inform and counsel them on next steps.
- Framingham Temporarily Closes Farm Pond Parking Lot: To further encourage social distancing and discourage the use of the Skate Park and Farm Pond Woodland Playground, the City has closed the Farm Pond parking lot effective immediately. According to infectious disease experts, the fastest way to slow down the virus is by limiting contact with people through social distancing (staying at least six-feet apart), washing hands, and disinfecting areas that are frequently touched. The Centers for Disease Control suggests that wearing cloth face masks in public could also help slow the spread. The City will continue to monitor the situation and reevaluate the closure regularly.
- New Resource added to <u>COVID-19 site</u> for victims of domestic and sexual abuse: <u>Voices</u> <u>Against Violence</u>, a Framingham-based organization, provides free and confidential services to victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence in the MetroWest area. To contact Voices' 24-hour hotline, call 508-826-8686 or 800-593-1125. The organization also is available to chat online with survivors of sexual and domestic violence 9 AM 5 PM, Monday-Friday, by visiting: <u>rc.chat/voices</u>. Please call 911 if you are experiencing an emergency.
- COVID-19 in Framingham: Information on COVID-19 in Framingham can be found at www.FraminghamMa.Gov/covid19, which is updated daily. To receive information from the City on a mobile device, text "Join FraminghamMA" to 30890. Residents also can find updates on Facebook and Twitter @Framingham_MA. For questions regarding COVID-19 in Framingham, please call the Emergency Operations Center at (508) 532-5800. If there is an urgent update, the City will employ the "Alert Framingham" phone messaging system, otherwise known as Rave. To sign up for the City's Rave system, please go here: https://www.smart911.com/