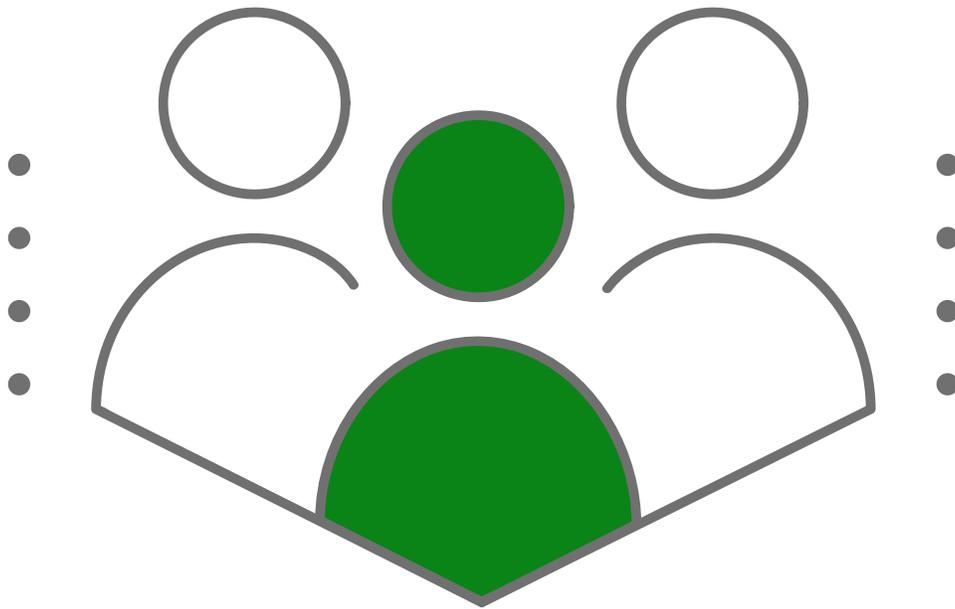


COVID-19: *RESOURCES FOR THE CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY*



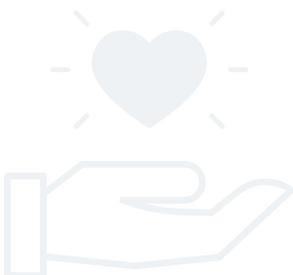
Updated: June 30, 2020
**Information is subject to change*



COVID-19:

RESOURCES FOR THE CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY

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COVID-19 **RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY**



WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 (formerly referred to as the 2019 novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV) is a new respiratory virus that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December of 2019.

HOW IS THE COVID-19 SPREAD?

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person. It is spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land on people who are nearby (within 6 feet). It may also be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a recently contaminated surface or object and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

Visit [Boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov) for more information on COVID-19.

CHARLESTOWN COALITION UPDATES:

Please visit CharlestownCoalition.org for our most recent newsletter and COVID-19 resources.

Below is a list of our programs and services, updated to reflect how the Coalition is operating during the current crisis.

CHARLESTOWN FAMILY SUPPORT CIRCLE

The Charlestown Family Support Circle (CFSC) assists Charlestown youth and families by connecting them to resources and supports in their community. We provide short term counseling, case management and care coordination services to residents to support families and increase access to services. The program also works with Charlestown providers, through the CFSC task force, to improve care coordination, taking a holistic approach to providing families support and care. We will continue to work remotely/safely with youth, families and members of the community in need of support during this time. If you need assistance or would like to get more involved in the task force, please feel free to contact Phenice at (339) 707-0654 or by email at Pzawatsky@Partners.org.

TRAUMA RESPONSE TEAM

In response to the long-term exposure to trauma throughout the community, the Coalition's Trauma Response Team began meeting in July 2016. The Trauma Response Team consists of Charlestown residents, staff from the Charlestown Adult Learning Center, one MGH Mental Health Clinician and staff from the Charlestown Coalition. As a collective, the group meets monthly to discuss both personal and community trauma and learn strategies to respond to such trauma. To date the group participated in a number of trauma response meetings and trainings in order to prepare for their roles as trauma responders. The group has helped a number of residents by supporting those in recovery, residents experiencing trauma, intervened to minimize incidents of violence and provided support to those in the community who have lost a loved one. In addition, the group plays a vital role with the coalition by participating in yearly events that provide education, support and access to services for so many in the community. The Trauma Response Team has been meeting weekly during the pandemic, though frequency of meetings may change, they are available to support residents in the community. If you need assistance or would like to learn more about our Trauma Response Team, contact Pzawatsky@Partners.org at (339) 707-0654.



COVID-19 **RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY**



ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES:

Shannon Lundin, Program Manager of Addiction and Recovery Services, will continue to reach out to individuals struggling with substance use disorders in the community via phone or virtual meetings and assist with connecting people to appropriate levels of care during the COVID-19 crisis. Contact Shannon at (617)-320-9058 or SMLundin@Partners.org.

GRASP GROUP

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Charlestown Grasp Group will not be able to meet in person. However, we are dedicated to making sure that all who are part of the Charlestown Grasp Group get the support they need during these challenging times. Grasp Group will be meeting virtually via Zoom - If interested please reach out to Shannon Lundin at SMLundin@Partners.org or 617-320-9058.

CHARLESTOWN DRUG COURT

The Charlestown Addiction Recovery Treatment Program (ChART), also known as Drug Court which operates out of the Charlestown Division of the Boston Municipal Court, provides an alternative to individuals with substance use disorders.

Given the increasing rates of confirmed cases of COVID-19 nationwide, courts across the country have suspended operations. Massachusetts courts are opened for emergency matters but closed to the public.

The ChART Treatment Team is committed to supporting all Drug Court participants the best we can during this time of uncertainty.

ChART Treatment Team members have been working urgently to brainstorm alternatives to help participants maintain their recovery.

- Team Members will use remote technology to conduct team meetings to track the status of clients.
- Team members will provide participants with information on how to stay safe and healthy, access to virtual meeting, groups and other essential resources.
- Team members will use remote technology and tele-services to stay in contact with participants.

Maintaining the safety and health of our participants is our main priority, and the court will serve as a source of information and support to participants and staff.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING:

TURN IT AROUND

Turn It Around Thursday youth programming will be conducted virtually via Zoom until further notice. Mswati Hanks, Turn It Around's Program Coordinator, will be staying in touch with our young people to assess group member and family needs. Contact Mswati at (646)-247-6208 or MHanks1@Partners.org.

CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL GAVIN GROUP

We are happy to continue our Healthy Alternatives to Substance Use with the students at Charlestown High School. We are currently meeting weekly via Zoom. We are specifically focused on teaching them coping skills to help them stay mentally and physically healthy during this challenging time. We are also connecting with their teachers, making sure they are getting the educational support they need, as well as connecting them and their families to resources.



COVID-19
RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)



LATEST UPDATES CITYWIDE:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

We're all in this together. [Click here for resources and communities where Boston residents can find help and support during this turbulent time.](#)

- Starting on Monday, June 22, 2020, indoor seated dining may begin with certain restrictions. [Read the Licensing Board advisory.](#)
- All City of Boston [playgrounds and splash pads are open now with safety restrictions.](#) City parks with recreational sports areas are closed.
- All [Boston Public Library](#) locations are closed. As of June 22, the Library will [allow patrons to "order" items](#) by placing a hold on them, then safely picking them up from select branches.
- The state released its [reopening Massachusetts plan](#), with information on how and when different industries can reopen. The City will now permit any construction type that is allowed by the state, with the required [COVID-19 Safety Affidavits and COVID-19 Safety Plans](#) for permitted construction work in place.
- All Mass. residents over the age of two must [wear a face covering](#) or mask in public.
- There is now a "[Safer at Home Advisory](#)" in effect in Massachusetts. People over 65 and those with underlying health conditions should stay home, with the exception of essential trips for healthcare and groceries. Restrictions on gatherings of more than 10 people remain in effect.
- [K-12 schools in Massachusetts](#) and non-emergency childcare programs are closed through the end of the school year. We have [free breakfast and lunch sites across the City for youth and teens.](#)
- City Hall will only be open to the public on [Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.](#) If you need to visit City Hall for essential services, you must make an appointment.
- [Boston Centers for Youth & Families](#) pools, gyms, and fitness centers are closed.
- [The MBTA has reduced its services.](#) All riders and employees are required to wear a face covering.

For more recent City of Boston updates, [view our COVID-19 timeline.](#)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is urging anyone who attended a large gathering in the past two weeks to get tested for COVID-19. The state is holding free pop-up testing locations across the state on Wednesday June 17, and Thursday, June 18, including a location in Jamaica Plain. [Visit the state's website for more details.](#)

Many City services adjusted hours and operations because of the crisis. [Visit the City's website](#) for the latest information as they begin to reopen the city.

The City of Boston has released a [return to workplace framework](#) for commercial spaces in the City. We're also [planning to reimagine streets](#) in Boston to better support local businesses and restaurants.



COVID-19
RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)



LATEST UPDATES CITYWIDE:

On June 11, 2020, Mayor Walsh announced that as of June 22, patrons will be able to pick up physical items such as books, DVDs, and CDs from select Boston Public Library locations. The program, called "BPL to Go," will allow patrons to "order" items from the library by placing a hold on them, then safely pick them up from select branches.

On June 10, 2020, Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston Licensing Board announced increased outdoor seating for restaurants in Boston.

On Thursday, May 28, Mayor Walsh announced that the Boston Marathon has been canceled as a mass participation road running event, but will instead be held as a virtual event. The City of Boston also released a return to workplace framework for commercial spaces in the City. We're also planning to reimagine streets in Boston to better support local businesses and restaurants.

On Tuesday, May 26, Mayor Walsh announced \$6 million in new debt-free grants to support the safe and healthy reopening of small businesses in Boston.

The state released its reopening Massachusetts plan, with information on how and when different industries can reopen. While construction and manufacturing can resume today, the City of Boston is reopening construction in a phased manner. We will allow work on schools, hospitals, some residential work, and open-air construction until May 25. Starting May 26, the City will permit any construction type that is allowed by the state, with the required COVID-19 Safety Affidavits and COVID-19 Safety Plans for permitted construction work in place. For more information about Boston's approach to Phase 1 of reopening, go to Boston.gov/reopening.

The City of Boston has launched a major expansion of its COVID-19 testing, with the goal of reaching an average of at least 1,500 diagnostic tests each day.

There is now a "Safer at Home Advisory" in effect in Massachusetts. People over 65 and those with underlying health conditions should stay home, with the exception of essential trips for healthcare and groceries. Restrictions on gatherings of more than 10 people remain in effect.

Governor Baker has ordered all Massachusetts residents to wear a mask in public places when it is not possible to maintain proper social distance. The order goes into effect on May 6. Visit Facts and Resources to learn how to make a home-made mask.

A Public Health Advisory for everyone in Boston, except essential workers, to stay at home from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. each day has been extended until May 18. Governor Baker extended the state's limit on gatherings and the closure of non-essential businesses until May 18. A stay-at-home advisory remains in effect.

Governor Baker announced the closure of K-12 schools in Massachusetts through the end of the school year. There are free breakfast and lunch sites across the City for youth and teens.

Parades and festivals will not take place in the City of Boston this summer, up to and including Labor Day on September 7, 2020.

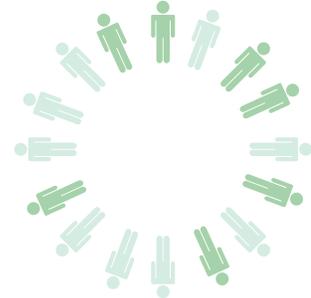
There are strict measures in place for social and physical distancing for Boston residents through Monday, May 18, 2020, including encouraging everyone to wear a face covering in public.



The 2020 Boston Marathon has been postponed until Monday, September 14, 2020. For more information, please visit the [Boston Athletic Association \(BAA\) website](#).

The City of Boston has launched a new, free texting service to provide daily updates and information about the coronavirus. Residents can text BOSCOVID to the City of Boston's new number 888-777 to opt-in to alerts in English. Language and communications access remains a priority for Mayor Walsh, so this text service is also available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, Cabo Verdean Creole, and Portuguese.

- Text BOSEspanol to 888-777 for Spanish
 - Text BOSKreyol to 888-777 for Haitian Kreyol
 - Text BOSFracais to 888-777 for French
 - Text BOSKriolu to 888-777 for Cabo Verdean Creole
 - Text BOSPortugues to 888-777 for Portuguese
- Updates in 10 total languages can additionally be accessed through boston.gov/coronavirus#multilingual-help.



HOMELESS SERVICES PLAN UPDATE

On March 30th, Mayor Walsh announced the Boston Housing Authority and the Boston Public Schools are creating a new partnership to house up to 1,000 families with BPS students at risk of displacement and experiencing homelessness over the next year. Outreach to get families into the application process will begin immediately to expand housing support for Bostonians during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency. The first housing placements are expected to begin in May 2020. [Learn more.](#)

On March 29th, Mayor Walsh announced that the City of Boston has secured over 240 additional beds to increase physical distancing in existing shelters and aid those in need of a home to safely quarantine or isolate themselves and reduce the further spread of COVID-19 in Boston.

- Suffolk University will be re-purposing a dormitory to provide at least 172 beds, helping reduce congestion and increase physical distancing in existing shelters in Boston. This facility will be managed in collaboration between the Pine Street Inn and the Boston Public Health Commission. This facility is not for quarantine—it's being used to relieve pressure for regular use on our existing shelters.
- The Davis Companies has provided another 70 beds at the site of a former long-term acute care hospital in Brighton (Commonwealth Avenue). This facility will be operated by the Boston Public Health Commission in partnership with Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. This facility is for quarantining purposes.

BUOY HEALTH ONLINE COVID19 SCREENINGS

The State of Massachusetts has partnered with South End based Buoy Health: a free health assistance tool to provide medical advice remotely. Buoy Health is not a replacement for emergency care. It provides a free online diagnostic tool which screens for COVID19. Additional information can be found at buoy.com/mass.



COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)



YOUTH AND FAMILY RESOURCES:

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Mayor Walsh expressed support for the Governor's decision to keep school buildings closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. BPS has been making plans to expand at-home learning opportunities, and will be sharing more information about this next phase of remote learning after April vacation. The City is continuing to operate meal pick-up sites and providing Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots. Every day, the city is distributing thousands of free meals at 65 locations across the City, and making home deliveries for students with severe special needs. These services are continuing right now, throughout April school vacation week, and for as long as it takes.

Information about all these resources is available at [Boston.gov/coronavirus](https://www.boston.gov/coronavirus). Emergency childcare programs, including nearly 40 in Boston, will continue to operate for first responders and other essential workers. You can find the list at [Boston.gov/emergencychildcare](https://www.boston.gov/emergencychildcare).

Here is the link for students to sign up to get chrome books delivered to their house:
<https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/laptop>

Here is the link for the information on internet: www.boston.gov/news/internet-connectivity-and-technology-supports-during-covid-19-response

Teaching Remotely for Grades K-12 | Free Resources and Strategies -visit:
classroommagazines.scholastic.com

How to talk to your kids about COVID-19:

The growing spread of COVID-19 has created a lot of anxiety and uncertainty for many people, including children and teens. As parents and caregivers, it can be difficult to talk with your kids about this global pandemic and address their concerns. In this video, Gene Beresin, MD, executive director of the Mass General Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds, offers helpful tips about how to engage with children of all ages to support and maintain emotional stability during this evolving situation.

7 Ways to Support Kids and Teens Through the Coronavirus Pandemic

Stress-Managing Tips

"Caution and concern rule the day in the time of Coronavirus, as well it should. But as we work together to prevent the spread of the virus and protect ourselves and our families from infection, there are ways we can both manage our stress and boost our self-care." To learn more about how to stay calm and focus on your overall wellbeing during the time of coronavirus, check out the MGH Benson-Henry Institute For Mind Body Medicine at: www.bensonhenryinstitute.org/calm-in-the-time-of-coronavirus/

Visit Charlestowncoalition.org/covid-resources to view the Charlestown Coalition's Community Resource Flyer that includes a list of helpful hotline phone numbers and a checklist to prepare and protect families in case of a COVID-19 outbreak at home.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Updated June 25: Five additional branches will be available for holds pickup starting July 6. See below. As of June 22, patrons will be able to pick up physical items at the Boston Public Library with the new "[BPL to Go](#)" program. Using the library website, phone line, or the "BPL To Go" iPhone app, patrons will be able to "order" (place a hold on) items such as: Books, DVDs, CDs. Library card holders — including e-card holders — will be able to safely pick up their items much like picking up takeout from a restaurant, and return items using designated bins. The pilot program launched first at the Central Library in Copley Square, the Codman Square Branch, the East Boston Branch, the Jamaica Plain Branch, and the Mattapan Branch. As of July 6, patrons will be able to pick up books, DVDs, and CDs at the Brighton, Charlestown, Lower Mills, South Boston, and West Roxbury branches.

**BOSTON CENTERS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES AND YMCA:**

Only select BCYF centers will be open for youth meal distribution during school closures. For a list of meal distribution locations, go to boston.gov/coronavirus. -Currently BCYF is re-working their offerings for summer 2020 and will share additional information over the coming weeks [here](#).

YMCA of Greater Boston information can be [accessed here](#).

FOOD RESOURCES:

TAFDC and **EAEDC** applications can now be filed (started) online!

Cash assistance applications can be filed online at DTAConnect.com (click the blue "apply" banner). Just like with SNAP, a case manager will need to speak with the client after the application is filed. This is a significant step towards ensuring folks have access to these critical benefits during the COVID-19 crisis. They encourage families with children and very low or no income, or adults 65+ or disabled who don't have income and have very low assets, to apply for cash assistance benefits.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND FROM THE SNAP COALITION:

If a SNAP household has a pending application, Interim Report, or Recertification, get paperwork in as soon as possible. DTA is working to get ahead on processing in case their operations are interrupted or delayed by COVID-19. Reminder that households can submit Interim Reports and Recertifications online at DTAConnect.com. If folks have concerns about getting help from DTA, please reassure them that at this time no rules or policies have changed! DTA is open for business and they can follow the normal protocols to communicate with DTA. If workers are seeing their hours reduced or eliminated as a result of COVID-19 (or any reason), encourage them to report those reductions as soon as possible to DTA so that they can ensure the SNAP benefit amount is adjusted. Reminder that if a change in income means a household's SNAP increases to the maximum benefit for their household size, DTA must issue a SNAP supplement for the month of the reported change.

SNAP supplemental emergency benefits:

USDA has given approval to MA and a few other states (that made early requests) to issue emergency supplemental SNAP benefits in March (and April). This is one of the nutrition provisions in the [Families First Act](#), signed March 18th. Note: These supplemental SNAP benefits will "top off" the SNAP benefits for current households, up to the maximum SNAP benefit for the household size. (USDA told states that households that get the max SNAP will not get a supplement.)

- USDA SNAP Waivers: USDA approved DTA's request to postpone Interim Reports and Recertifications that are due in March, April, or May for 6 months. Clients may still get this paperwork in the mail - but should not be cut off if they don't do the paperwork or if DTA gets it but doesn't have the capacity to process it right now. This means folks who are on the caseload now should stay on SNAP for the next 6 months without interruption. You can see the letter from [FNS to DTA here](#). DTA has requested other waivers to simplify SNAP processing and we will keep you posted.
- DTA has posted a COVID-19 webpage here: Mass.gov/info-details/dta-covid-19-resources-and-support
- [Updated SNAP Fliers](#)
- Masslegalservices.org/COVID-19workersandSNAP



RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)

- **EBT purchases during pandemic.** Remember that any SNAP household member can go food shopping, whether their name or picture is on the EBT card (the back of the card confirms that); and any SNAP household member can authorize a trusted third party (e.g. a relative or friend) to help food shop as well. If that person is regularly food shopping for the SNAP household, best to then have the SNAP household send a note to DTA (by mail, fax or DTA Connect) if the household plans to have that third party be an “authorized rep” – but no need to set that up in advance.
- **Online EBT purchasing?** MA is not one of the current states piloting online EBT purchasing (for ex, with Amazon or WalMart). It will take some time to get this in place, and may be quite limited to the very large grocers. BUT EBT grocers can still offer curbside “click, collect and pay” with SNAP EBT. See description here. Doing this does NOT require a USDA waiver. We urge folks to contact local supermarkets, grocers and farmers markets (many of whom have mobile EBT POS devices) to ask if they are offering phone or on-line ordering and then curbside pick up/pay options.
- **Economic Impact Payments & SSI Recipients** – filing deadline to get \$500/dependent quickly is May 5. Background: These payments (\$1,200/adult, \$500/dependent) are for all who have incomes of less than 75k/year. Certain people who do not typically file taxes need to file paperwork with the IRS to get the payments – by filling out the non-filer tool on the IRS website. Social Security (RSDI) and SSI recipients do not need to complete this form because their \$1,200 will be direct deposited. However, if they have dependents, they DO need to fill out this form. The federal administration set quick deadlines for households to complete the form to get the \$500/dependent – and if the deadline is missed, households will not get their child payments before 2021. For many RSDI households the deadline already passed. **The IRS announced the deadline for SSI recipients is May 5.**
- Advocates and members of Congress have been pressuring the Administration to ensure low-income seniors and persons with severe disabilities who miss this wildly fast deadline can access the child benefits sooner than 2021. But, for now, the best advice is that SSI recipients should file as soon as possible.
- Also note that RSDI or SSI beneficiaries who started receiving after January 1, 2020 can continue to use the IRS non-filer web page to get the dependent payment without waiting until 2021. See information from SSA here.
- Reminder that these payments do not count as income for all DTA benefits. For organizations that may be able to help with filing, see here (confirm with the organization they are working remotely): Masscap.org/freetaxprep/



COVID-19
RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)



Message from WIC: Services are being done by phone ONLY! WIC participants can contact their local WIC office with any questions. Please refer to [Mass.gov/wic](https://www.mass.gov/wic) or facebook.com/MassWIC for ongoing updated information.

- **Project Bread** - Food Source Hotline 1-800-645-8333 (TTY line: 800-377-1292) Project Bread is keeping an updated school meal resource list and map of the school districts offering prepackaged meals for school age children.
- **The Harvest On Vine Pantry** - 617-990-7314 Food is distributed on the second Saturday of every month at 10AM and the last Tuesday of the month at 7PM

[Click here](#) for Charlestown Food Resource Flyer 4.23.2020

Meal distribution sites serving BPS families in Charlestown and NorthEnd:

- **Kennedy Center** - 23A Moulton St., 8am-12pm
- **Charlestown High School** - 240 Medford St, 8:30am-11:30am
- **Nazzaro BCYF** - 30 N Bennet St, 9am-12pm



[Map of Meal Sites for Youth and Children](#)

For more information, visit www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-meal-sites-boston or click here for updated [School Closure Meal Information spreadsheet](#)

The **City's Office of Food Access** is acting as the main intake for delivery requests. While it looks like they don't have capacity to deliver things other than food at this moment, if it's a question of getting food into apartment buildings and to units where people are quarantined, they may be able to assist. Reach out to the Office of Food Access through the [contact information on this page](#) for more details.

Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) Updates: The following is based on emails DTA sent out to Outreach Partners and Advisory Board members late Friday (6/19) with various updates, including a temporary system maintenance to DTA Connect and the DTA Assistance Line over the weekend (which are now updated). We have summarized the core DTA updates here:
SNAP/Cash Renewals: DTA was granted a waiver from the USDA to postpone for 6 months SNAP Interim Reports (IRs) and Recertifications that were due in March through June. DTA also postponed TAFDC and EAEDC cash assistance reevaluations. This USDA waiver is expiring. SNAP IRs and Recertifications and TAFDC and EAEDC Revaluations are beginning again. The first group are households who need to complete an RI or Recertification before August in order to keep their SNAP benefits uninterrupted. The DTA forms are sent 45 days before the due date. The DTA forms started going in the mail last week. It is critical households respond to these forms or they may not get their August SNAP benefits. Some households may need to submit additional proofs. Other households filing a Recertification form will also need to have a phone interview with DTA (there is no interview at the point of Interim Report). Households can return the paperwork to DTA 1 of 3 ways: Completing online at DTAConnect.com via their case account, US mail, or by FAX. For more information about SNAP reevaluations, see this Question in the SNAP Advocacy Guide
SNAP Emergency Supplements: USDA approved DTA to issue another extra, emergency SNAP benefit to bring household's benefits up to the max amount for their household size for the month of June. This payment will be going out the first week of July. We will let you know the exact date closer to the issuance. We have no information on any additional SNAP supplements beyond the June supplement.



COVID-19
RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)



Project Bread – Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Fact Sheet

What is Pandemic EBT or P-EBT? - The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 includes a provision called “Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer,” or “P-EBT.” This allows states to issue benefits to families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, because of the school closures associated with COVID-19.

Who will receive P-EBT? - All Massachusetts students (preK-12) who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or attend a school that offers universally free breakfast and lunch will receive P-EBT.

How much is the benefit? - Each student will receive a P-EBT benefit that is equivalent to the cost of school breakfast and school lunch – \$5.70/day. The total benefit amount is to be determined.

What do families need to do to receive the benefit? - If families are already receiving SNAP and/or TAFDC (TANF) benefits, they will receive the additional PEBT benefit for each school-age child on their EBT card. If they do not receive SNAP or TAFDC, but their children receive free or reduced-price school meals, they will receive a P-EBT card – like a debit card –for each student in the mail that can be used at grocery stores to buy food. There is no application to complete.

What can families, who are low-income, but not receiving SNAP or free or reduced-price meals, do to receive P-EBT benefits? - Families who have recently lost jobs or income are encouraged to apply for SNAP through DTA Connect or Project Bread’s FoodSource Hotline (800-645-8333). If they are approved for SNAP, they will also receive P-EBT benefits for their school age children. If they are not eligible or do not wish to apply for SNAP, they may still apply for free or reduced-price school meals through their school district. Where can families use the P-EBT card? What can they purchase? P-EBT is NOT SNAP, but it operates very similarly. P-EBT cards can be used where SNAP EBT cards are accepted (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer-locator>). P-EBT can be used to purchase the same food as SNAP benefits – fruits, vegetables, bread, meats, dairy, etc. (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>). P-EBT cannot be used to purchase toiletries, paper products (e.g. toilet paper), alcohol, or hot prepared food items.

If a family uses their P-EBT card, can they still pick up/receive meals at school sites?

Families using their P-EBT card can still take advantage of all food resources in their community including picking up/receiving meals from schools or community organizations like the YMCA, going to food pantries, and applying for federal nutrition programs such as SNAP. For more information about each of these resources, please go to www.projectbread.org/covid19

For a DTA Q&A on P-EBT visit: Mass.gov/p-ebt or map-ebt.org/faqs

If families have questions about P-EBT, SNAP, WIC or other food resources, they can call Project Bread’s Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. They can also contact the city’s Office of Food Access at 617-635-3717 or by email at food@boston.gov.



LEGAL SUPPORT:

Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston has created a resource that outlines some of the legal questions people may have and information about the effects of Coronavirus.

Courts are handling emergency matters only. Several courts are closed temporarily, based on protocols established early in this health emergency. Also, several Trial Court departments recently have issued additional emergency Standing Orders. Links to temporary court closure information and all emergency standing orders are available on the Court's COVID Response Page: [mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19](https://www.mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19)

RECOVERY RESOURCES:

All local 12-Step Fellowship meetings in the Charlestown community have been temporarily put on hold and/or moved online.

The daily noon-time meetings at the First Church in Charlestown have been suspended as of 3/17/2020.

Below are links to online 12-Step Meetings and recordings from speaker-meetings, conventions and workshops of 12-step fellowships, such as Alcoholics, Anonymous, Al-Anon Family Groups and Narcotics Anonymous that can be accessed at this time:

www.myrecovery.com – online meeting room open 24/7

www.xa-speakers.org

www.mediafire.com/sobrietyfirst

www.aa-intergroup.org

www.virtual-na.org

www.intherooms.com/home/

Visit www.embarkreco.com/events for online all-recovery meetings daily at 12PM & 6PM MST from your browser or smartphone.

Attend a virtual meeting, hosted by the NorthStar, Stay at Home, and Live the Steps of NA groups of Narcotics Anonymous:

Saturday 7PM - <https://zoom.us/j/2012572764>

Sunday 7PM - <https://zoom.us/j/2012572764>

Monday 7PM - <https://zoom.us/j/2012572764>

Tuesday 7PM - <https://zoom.us/j/2012572764>

Wednesday 8PM - <https://zoom.us/j/8573067574>

Thursday 7PM - <https://zoom.us/j/2012572764>

Friday 7PM - <https://zoom.us/j/402283768>

**Times listed in EST -English Speaking Only*

Online Meeting Directory and List of Virtual Meetings & Speaker Archives

If you are home sick and need a meeting -Pause A While will host a free conference call for AA Meetings. 2PM Every Day, Call: (425)436-6360 Access Code: 422932#



RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)

Stoneham YP (AA) will continue meeting online Friday nights at 8PM. All are welcome. Many of the group members work the steps to the best of their ability, but anyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome. [Click here](#) for more information.

For another virtual meeting by The Beacon Group, visit <https://beacongroupaa.com/covid-19-updates/>

Visit Charlestowncoalition.org/covid-resources to view the Charlestown Coalition's How To Use:Zoom quick reference guide if you need assistance getting into zoom meetings.

For Teleconference Meetings and Cyber Phone Recovery visit, NAbyphone.com or Nerna.org for virtual NA Meetings.

For a Recovery Resource Toolkit, visit smartrecovery.org/smart-recovery-toolbox/smart-recovery-online/

[Beds available for homeless folks, both COVID 19 positive and negative](#)

[Canary](#) is an overdose prevention app that monitors for a user's inactivity after activation. In the event that a user stops moving and fails to respond to prompts by Canary, the app issues an alert to others.

All of the City's recovery services are still open. They have online resources including links to online meetings at Boston.gov/Recovery. You can also call 3-1-1.

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES:

- [spiritual-resources-during-covid-19-pandemic](#)
- [Faith Based Resources](#)
- <https://www.christianassemblynow.org/>
- <https://www.fccharlestown.com/>
- <http://stmaryscatherine.org>



FITNESS AND WELLNESS

The Phoenix - Join their virtual and live-streamed classes at thephoenix.org/virtual

For health and fitness videos visit: ymca360.org/on-demand



RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)

LICENSED PREMISES:

Reopening Phase II mandatory safety standards, recommended best practices and a checklist for restaurants. Permitted to open for outdoor table service: Phase II, Step 1, June 8th. Permitted to open for indoor table service: Phase II, Step 2, June 22nd.

On June 19, 2020, Governor Baker announced that, based on public health metrics, Step Two of Phase II of the Commonwealth's reopening process will begin on Monday, June 22, 2020. That means that indoor seated dining may begin on that date, pursuant to certain conditions.

As part of this announcement, the Governor reiterated previously issued guidance (the "Guidance") regarding both indoor and outdoor seated dining by patrons. The Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the "Board") issues this advisory (the "Advisory") applicable to establishments holding a valid common victualler or common victualler with alcoholic beverages license (the "Licensee" or "Licensees") to assist in the reopening process.

For more info. visit, www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-restaurants

CONSTRUCTION SITES:

To stem the current public health crisis and support the health of workers in the City, the City has paused non-essential construction and is enacting new requirements for permitting.

On Monday, May 18, the state released its reopening Massachusetts plan, with information on how and when different industries can reopen. While construction and manufacturing can resume today, the City of Boston is reopening construction in a phased manner. We will allow work on schools, hospitals, some residential work, and open-air construction until May 25. After May 25, the City will permit any construction type that is allowed by the state, with the required COVID-19 Safety Affidavits and COVID-19 Safety Plans for permitted construction work in place.

For more info. visit, www.boston.gov/news/temporary-guidance-construction-city-boston

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:

Healthcare providers in Boston should immediately notify BPHC at 617-534-5611 if they suspect a patient is infected with COVID-19. Providers outside of Boston should contact MDPH at 617-983-6800. CDC has created criteria to guide evaluation of patients suspected to have COVID-19.



REDEVELOPMENT, PLAN CHARLESTOWN:

During this time we recommend that stakeholders engage in the PLAN: Charlestown process through their website, where all planning study materials are posted, including the presentation boards from their recent Open House on January 30. We also encourage the public to keep in touch with Planning staff by submitting comments directly to the PLAN: Charlestown team: bostonplans.com/plancharlestown

For more information on the BPDA's Public Meeting Guidelines and our COVID-19 response, please visit our website: bostonplans.org/news-calendar/news-updates/2020/03/25/bpda-covid-19-response

CABLE PROVIDERS DISCOUNT: DO YOU NEED INTERNET AT HOME?

Comcast is offering free Internet for two months because of the coronavirus. In response to emergency measures associated with Coronavirus (COVID-19), Internet Essentials will increase speeds from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps for all customers. This speed increase will happen automatically - no action is required by customers. In addition, new customers will receive two months of free service.

This is for people who:

Have SNAP, Section 8, Medicaid SSI, etc. - or free school lunch (everyone at CHS)

You don't owe money to Comcast that was billed in the last year. (If you owe money but it was more than one year ago, it might be ok.) You have not signed up for Comcast in the last 90 days.

To sign up:

Go to www.internetessentials.com

Call: 1-855-846-8376 for English

Call: 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

If you're going to be impacted by the shut downs you should immediately file an unemployment claim on Tuesday. In addition you should ask your employer if they're going to be filing a business interruption insurance claim so they can recoup their lost revenues and continued payroll. If so you should be able to receive compensation for the time being until the Senate passes the legislation passed in the house that will provide additional assistance.

- To apply for Snap Benefits: www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility
- To apply for Masshealth: www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-masshealth-the-health-safety-net-or-the-childrens-medical-security-plan
- Rent Payment Assistance: www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-residential-assistance-for-families-in-transition-raft
- Fuel Assistance: www.commteam.org/
- Unemployment Assistance: www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-unemployment-assistance
- [Sign-up for UCB Visa Gift Card Support / Regístrese para obtener asistencia con Visa](#)



FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS HOTLINE

On May 13th, Mayor Walsh announced that the Boston Tax Help Coalition, a program within the Mayor's Office of Financial Empowerment, has launched a Stimulus Hotline to assist Boston residents eligible for the federal economic stimulus payment.

- Residents with incomes under \$75,000, including those with no income, may be eligible for the full \$1,200 payment. However, residents who do not usually file a tax return must
- file an application with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in order to receive their payment.
- Boston Tax Help Coalition volunteers and staff have been trained to assist residents in filing this application with the IRS.
- Boston residents should check if they are eligible for the stimulus before calling at: <https://www.bostontaxhelp.org/stimulus-payment-help/>.
- The hotline can be accessed by calling (781) 399-5330 or 311. The hotline is staffed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., and calls received outside of those time frames will be returned. Staff are available to assist residents in Spanish, and residents in need of assistance in additional languages will be connected to the appropriate translation services.

TAXES

The Trump administration announced on Friday morning that it would move tax day from April 15 to July 15, giving Americans an extra three months to file their taxes amid the disruptions caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

- The Tax Help Coalition is also getting ready to provide its usual free services for the July 15 tax deadline, for those who make under \$56,000. We are setting up the technology to be able to provide these services virtually in the coming weeks.





UNEMPLOYMENT EXPANSION

- New Q&A: [bostonglobe.com/2020/03/18/business/how-apply-unemployment-benefits-era-coronavirus/](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/03/18/business/how-apply-unemployment-benefits-era-coronavirus/) (Boston Globe)
- For current unemployment claims:
 - All requirements regarding attending seminars at the MassHire career centers have been suspended.
 - Missing deadlines due to effects of COVID-19 will be excused under the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) good cause provision.
 - All appeal hearings will be held by telephone only.
- New Claims- The Department of Labor (DOL) issued guidance to the states instructing state agencies to apply existing law flexibly. Under the DOL guidance, DUA may now pay unemployment benefits if a worker is quarantined due to an order by a civil authority or medical professional or leaves employment due to reasonable risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member and does not intend to or is not allowed to return to work. The worker need not provide medical documentation and need only be available for work when and as able.

To apply:

- The fastest and easiest way to file a claim is using UI Online at www.mass.gov/dua. 7 days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- To file a claim by phone, you can schedule a call back at www.mass.gov/dua.
- You can also file a claim by calling the TeleClaim Center at 617-626-6800 from area codes 617 and 781 or 877-626-6800 from area codes 351, 413, 508, 774 or 711 for voice relay. Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Source and for more information: www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-massachusetts-covid-19-workforce-measures

HIRING BPHC POSITIONS

The City is actively hiring candidates for critical positions such as homeless counselors, recovery services, public health advocates and public safety officers. Please go to bphc.org for job listings



PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Massachusetts residents who are eligible for the federal CARES Act and qualify for having exhausted their regular unemployment compensation may now receive the new Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). The launch of this program marks the third and final benefit available for the Commonwealth through the CARES Act.

PEUC provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits to an individual who has exhausted all rights to any regular unemployment compensation and who meets other eligibility requirements of the CARES Act. PEUC will automatically begin for individuals who have been receiving regular standard unemployment benefits on an active claim and those benefits are exhausted, and those individuals do not have to take any further action. If an individual's standard unemployment claim has expired, they must file a new standard claim. If the individual is monetarily eligible on the new standard claim, regardless of the benefit rate amount, they will receive benefits from that new claim. Otherwise, the individual will be eligible for PEUC on the prior claim and it will be automatically implemented. Individuals who exhausted their standard benefits but were receiving benefits through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) must apply to claim weekly benefits.

Residents should apply through the standard unemployment benefits portal available [here](#). Those receiving PEUC will also receive \$600 weekly through the week ending July 25, 2020, provided by the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program established by the CARES Act. The CARES Act signed into law on March 27, 2020, established the PEUC, PUA and FPUC public benefit programs that expanded unemployment eligibility, temporarily increases weekly benefits for all claimants and allows additional categories of people to claim unemployment benefits. This is the largest expansion of assistance for the Commonwealth's workforce since the Great Depression. More information about Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation can be found at mass.gov/peuc.

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES:

COVID-19 GRANTS/FUNDS

- [List of Massachusetts disaster and emergency relief resources](#) for COVID 19. Funding is for individuals, families, non-profits and businesses.
- [Massachusetts Workers Emergency Relief Funds](#)
- [The Restaurant Strong Fund](#) aims to provide \$1,000 grants to full-time restaurant workers who lost their jobs. (<https://www.wbur.org/artery/2020/03/18/restaurant-workers-donations-funds>)



COVID-19
RESOURCES FOR THE COMMUNITY (Cont.)



- [Boston Artist Relief Fund](#)
- [Cambridge Artist Relief Fund](#)
- [Boston Music Maker COVID-19 Fund](#)
- [Boston Dance Alliance Relief Fund](#)
- [Boston Resiliency Fund](#)
- [Boston Rental Relief Fund](#)
- [Boston Small Business Relief Fund](#)
- [Boston Singers' Relief Fund](#)
- [MCC COVID-19 Relief Effort for Individuals](#)
- [MCC COVID-19 Relief Effort for Organizations](#)
- [Gaming Mitigation Grants](#)

ONLINE RESOURCES & GUIDES:

- [MGH Website for News & Information](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [City of Boston Information](#)
- [Facts and Resources](#)
- [Boston Public Health Commission COVID 19 Fact Sheet](#)
- [CORONAVIRUS DISEASE \(COVID-19\) TIMELINE](#)
- [Massachusetts Attorney General Guide](#)
- [Suffolk County District Attorney Guide](#)
- [MASSLEGALHELP](#)
- [MIRA Coalition](#)
- [RESOURCE GUIDE FOR BOSTON'S IMMIGRANTS](#)
- [Corona.help](#) is an attempt to help people stay updated with the Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) as it's spreading around the world.
- Call: State/Local Hotlines: MA 2-1-1
- [Boston 3-1-1](#) - Citizens report potholes, graffiti, and other issues from anywhere in the city using their mobile phone.
- Residents are asked to not call 9-1-1 unless you are experiencing a medical emergency. All COVID-19 questions should be directed to Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050 or 311. The City and BPHC will continue to provide updated information on [bphc.org](#) and [boston.gov/coronavirus](#).
- The MBTA will be operating on a reduced schedule. For a full list of changes, go to <https://mbta.com/covid19>
- [Employee Assistance Program](#) - City of Boston program that promotes, establishes, and increases quality of life, good health, and personal experiences for City employees.



CRITICAL RESOURCES:

- [Emergency Childcare](#)
- [Meal Sites for Children and Youth](#)
- [Project Bread](#) (call the hotline at 1-800-645-8333 for questions about P-EBT, SNAP, WIC and other food resources)
- [Online Recovery Resources](#)
- [Internet Connectivity and Technology Supports](#)
- [Boston Rental Relief](#)
- [COVID-19 Symptom Checker Online](#)
- [Educator and Caregiver Resources](#)

DONATE AND VOLUNTEER:

- [Good Neighbors](#) (click here to volunteer or request support)—can also call 877-958-8785
- [PPE Donations](#)
- [Boston Resiliency Fund](#)

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT:

- Work with young people who are looking for jobs this summer? Encourage youth to apply via [SuccessLink](#), which is still open.
- Looking for relatable teen health resources during the COVID-19 pandemic? Youth can check out the Peer Health Exchange's webpage, [Let's Talk: Your Health](#).
- Are your young people looking for ideas on what to cook and which virtual activities to do? Youth can look through the [BPHC Health Resource Center's COVID-19 Cookbook](#) (feel free to make your own copy and edit pages 69 and 95 to include your email address so that youth feedback goes to your program).
- Want to support youth in coping with the pandemic in a productive and healthy way? Try out City of Boston Recovery Services' CopeCode Challenge. To learn more about how to implement, visit: [CodeCode Club website](#) and [CopeCode Challenge toolkit](#)