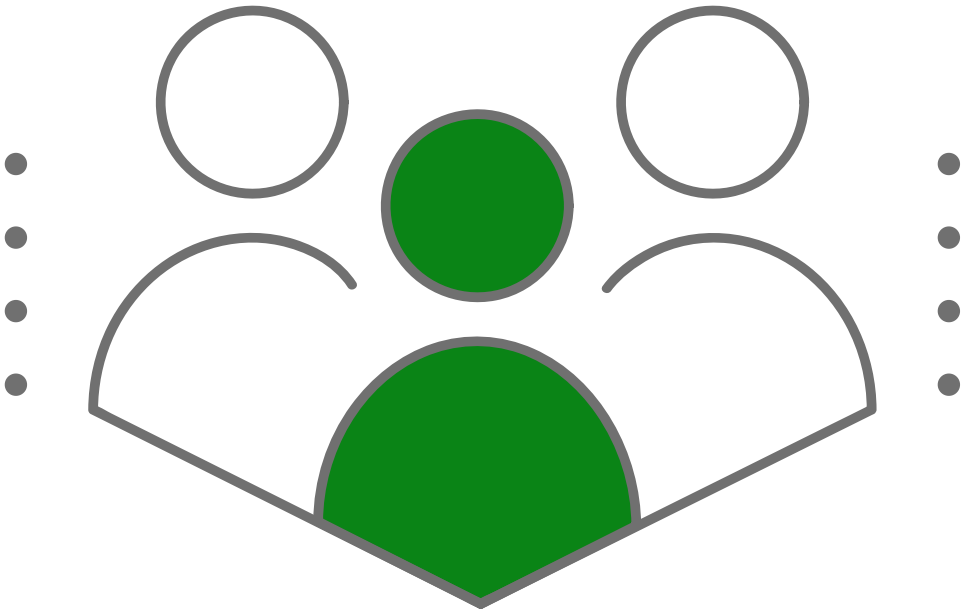
COVID-19:
RESOURCES FOR THE CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY



Updated: November 24, 2020
**Information is subject to change*

Charlestown Family Support Circle

Charlestown Coalition
Advancing Communities • Transforming Lives

COVID-19:

RESOURCES FOR THE CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY

Table of Contents

What is COVID-19?.....page 1

Charlestown Coalition Updates.....page 1-2

Latest Updates Citywide.....page 2-5

Youth and Family Resources.....page 6

Food Resources.....page 7-9

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Fact Sheet.....page 10

Legal Resources.....page 11

Recovery Resources.....page 11-12

Spiritual Resources.....page 12

Fitness and Wellness.....page 12

Licensed Premises.....page 13

Construction Sites.....page 13

Healthcare Providers.....page 13

Redevelopment, Plan Charlestown.....page 14

Internet Assistance.....page 14

Financial Assistance.....page 14-17

Other Helpful Resources (Grants, Testing Sites, Volunteer, Donate).....page 17-19

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 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

IIn 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.

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 continue to be conducted virtually via Zoom with one in-person monthly meeting at First Church in Charlestown starting October, 1st, *susceptible to changes according to CDC guidelines and the City of Boston re-opening restrictions. 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 with any questions.

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.

LATEST UPDATES CITYWIDE:

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

- On November 2, the state announced a series of targeted measures to disrupt the increasing trend of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, including:
  - A revised stay-at-home advisory instructing residents to stay home between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
  - A new executive order requiring the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 p.m., including restaurants, liquor stores and other retail establishments, gyms, and indoor and outdoor events (view the full list of businesses)
  - A revised order requiring all persons to wear face coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain six feet of distance from others, and
  - An updated order restricting gatherings. Indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people.

- On October 21, Boston Public Schools announced that due to a rising COVID-19 infection rate in the City, all students will shift to remote learning effective tomorrow, Thursday, October 22.

- On September 22, the state issued updates to the safety standards for restaurants. On September 23, Mayor Walsh announced how these updates will be put in place for indoor and outdoor dining in Boston. These updated safety standards go into effect on September 28.

- We are moving forward with a responsible, phased-in plan to start the Boston Public Schools year, with all students starting fully remote on September 21. The first students will not return to school until at least October 1.

- ***COVID-19 Travel Order* -** Effective August 1, 2020, all visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow new travel orders. The Commonwealth has made great progress to slow the spread of COVID-19 and gradually re-open the economy, and all visitors have a responsibility to help us keep transmission levels as low as possible.

- City Hall is only open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, 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.

- Step 1 of Phase 3 will begin on Monday, July 6, except for Boston, where it will begin on Monday, July 13. An updated gathering advisory goes into effect on July 6 as well, except for in Boston, where it will take effect on July 13. We continue to update City-specific guidance for Boston on our reopening website.

- Starting on Monday, June 22, 2020, indoor seated dining may begin with certain restrictions. Read the Licensing Board advisory.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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 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.

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.

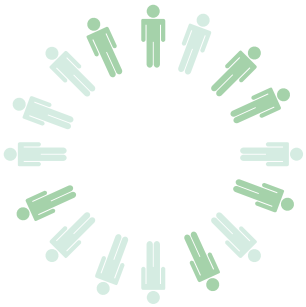
- There are strict measures in place for social and physical distancing for Boston residents through Monday, May 18, 2020, including encouraging everyone to wear a face covering in public.

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, Haitan 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.

In response to the public health emergency, the City of Boston put together a list of resources for those experiencing homelessness.

- 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.

YOUTH AND FAMILY RESOURCES:

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

- Boston Public Schools announced on October 21st that due to a rising COVID-19 infection rate in the city, and in support of efforts to contain the spread, all students will shift to remote learning effective tomorrow, Thursday, October 22. The city's seven-day average COVID-19 positive test rate was reported at 5.7%, an increase from last week's rate of 4.5%. Students will remain in remote learning until there are two full weeks of falling infection rates.

- BPS will provide updates to plans as soon as they develop. In addition, schools will work with families who may need to pick up technology or other personal items students may have left at school. The district is exploring options for providing services for our students with complex disabilities and will update families with more information in the coming days.

Information about BPS is available at 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.

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 Rources and Stratergies -visit: classroommagazines.scholastic.com

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 form 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:

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. For Homework assistance, please visit www.bpl.org/homework-help-for-grades-k-8.

BOSTON CENTERS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES AND YMCA:

BCYF community centers are offering a limited menu of programs and classes for pre-registered participants. We continue to expand the menu of offerings as we are able to in accordance with public health guidelines. You can learn more at www.boston.gov/news/bcyf-program-and-registration-information-during-covid-19

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 procotols 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

- **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 5Background: 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/

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 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

PLEASE NOTE: Locations and times are subject to change. Please check back to confirm information before you head to a soup kitchen or food pantry.

Food Pick-up Locations in Charlestown (starting July 6th):

- Kennedy Center - 55 Bunker Hill Street, 10am-2pm
- Edwards Middle School - 28 Walker St., 10am-6pm, Youth 18 and under, no ID required
- Harvard/Kent School - 50 Bunker Hill Street, 8:30am- 11:30am
- Charlestown High School - 240 Medford St, 8:30am-11:30am
- Charlestown Adult Education Center -76 Monument St, 12-2pm on Thursdays

Please call ahead as information is subject to change.

Map of Meal Sites for Youth and Children

For more information, visit www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-meal-sites-boston

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 aRecertification 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 GuideSNAP 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.

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

RECOVERY RESOURCES:

All local 12-Step Fellowship meetings in the Charlestown community have been temporarily put on hold and/or moved online except the Covid Defiance Group that meets at the Charlestown High School football field everyday at 12pm and 7pm. Visit aaboston.org for details.

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#

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://stmarystcatherine.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

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. 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: www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/news-updates

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

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.

SALVATION ARMY EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Available Monday through Friday 10:00am-2:00pm (by appointment) Emergency financial assistance is available for utility bills (gas, heating oil, propane, etc), rent, furniture and clothing. Payment to the utility or landlord is provided to avoid disconnection of utility services, eviction and/or heating oil. Furniture is provided in the event of disaster (flood, fire or other natural disasters and situation of domestic violence). A voucher may be given to The Salvation Army Thrift Store; transportation of items is the responsibility of the beneficiary. Beneficiaries must provide the following: Proof of income for all members of household Proof of ALL expenses Birth Certificate or ID for all members of household Shut Off Notice, Eviction Notice, Domestic Violence Report, Fire/Flood Report Contact Information: Call (781) 324-1970 for an appointment

HOME START EVICTION PREVENTION HOTLINE:

1-857-415-2900 NOTICE: If you owe back rent and are trying to stay in your apartment, we may be able to help. For general inquiries or updates, please leave us a voicemail at 617-542-0338 or email us at homestart@homestart.org.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXPANSION

· New Q&A: 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 ifo a worker is quarantined due to an order by a civil authority or medical professional oro leaves employment due to reasonable risk of exposure or infection oro to care for a family member and does not intend to or is not allowed to return to work.o 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.

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance retroactive in your first week of total or partial unemployment. Most regular UI claims are processed within 21-28 days after filing, and many are processed within the first week of filing. You can complete the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance application by visiting https://ui-cares-act.mass.gov/PUA/.

Applicants will need to provide the following information:

- Your social security number (if you are not a citizen of
- the United States, your A Number (USCIS Number)
- Your residential address and mailing address (if different from residential address)
- Your telephone number, email address, birth date
- Your wage records for 2019 which includes:
  - 1099 forms / Pay stubs / Bank statements
- The social security number(s) and date(s) if birth for your
- dependent child(ren)
- If you want to use direct deposit for payment, you'll need your bank account and routing numbers

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

- 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 Country 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:

- COVID-19 Testing Sites
- BOSTON COVID-19 TESTING PLEDGE
- MGH Flu Clinics https://www.massgeneral.org/news/flu
- Walgreens Flu Clinic www.walgreens.com/topic/pharmacy/seasonal-flu.jsp
- CVS Flu Clinic www.cvs.com/immunizations/flu
- 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
- Information on how you can support COVID-19 efforts in Boston.

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, when 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 (now over). To learn more about how to implement, visit: CodeCode Club website and CopeCode Challenge toolkit