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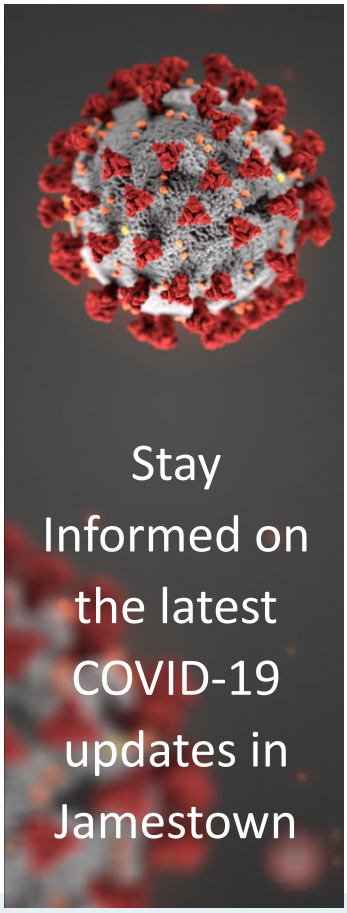
Volume 1, Issue 1

COMMUNITY INFORMATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Town Collaborates with local resources to organize Food & Essential Needs Drop-Off

In efforts to ensure that those in who may be food vulnerable during the current outbreak of COVID-19, the Town of Jamestown has collaborated with Community Food Bank and St. Mark's Church to launch the "Help Your Neighbor Fund" . The purpose of this fund will be to supply local residents who find themselves in need of assistance obtaining necessary food and other essential household needs such as toiletries, soaps, laundry detergent, and pet supplies. To kick-off the creation of this fund, a Food and Essential Needs Drop-off event will be held this Saturday, March 28 between the hours of 9am-12pm in the parking lot behind St. Matthew's Church adjacent to the Senior Center at 6 West Street. Monetary donations will be accepted as well. All donations may be made out to: Help Your Neighbor Fund, or the Town of Jamestown. If you are unable to make it to the drop-off event, please consider making a donation online at Jamestown.recdesk.com or by contacting the Parks & Recreation Department at 423-7260. If you have goods to donate and cannot make the drop-of please contact Betsey Anderson at 6 West Street.

Presidential Primary Postponed

MAIL BALLOTS ENCOURAGED

The Governor Announced this week that the April 28th Presidential Preference Primary has been Postponed to June 2, 2020. She is also encouraging Rhode Islanders to vote by mail to ensure the safety of yourself as well as the poll workers. The Mail ballot application is available at the following website: https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Content/Pdfs/Calendar/PPP-MailBallot.pdf !

Voter Information – Check your voter status and register to vote by visiting the following link: https://vote.sos.ri.gov/

For more information regarding the election please contact the Clerk's Office at 423-9801.

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Special points of interest

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR FOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT BY SUNDAY MARCH 29

Call 423-9804 for more info.

Town of Jamestown's Response to COVID-19

The Town has continued to monitor and follow all State and Federal guidance to help prevent and contain the spread of the virus for the safety of our community. We encourage every citizen to follow the Department of Health and CDC's scientific based recommendations by preventing contamination by properly sanitizing all public places such as supermarkets, take out from restaurants and all local establishments. It is also recommended you follow this practice at your place of work and in your homes. Protect yourself by familiarizing with the most up to date information on the virus and how it spreads and by applying these valued precautions also recommended by health experts such as:

- Get your flu shot and encourage the people around you to do the same.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (especially bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, door handles and toys for children) by wiping them down with a household disinfectant.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious foods.
- The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. You should only wear a mask if a health care professional recommends it and you have respiratory symptoms. It is important that we keep the supply of masks available for those who really need them (e.g., healthcare providers and those who are sick).

"We have a good plan, We're executing the plan [and] we're doing the very best we can." Governor Gina Raimondo

How will positive test results be reported to the public?

The Rhode of Island Department of Health has jurisdiction over all cases of the virus. This includes all the health protocols performed by emergency services, physicians and treatment centers. As well as orders of quarantine or decontamination, once the Department of Health has determined a person has a positive test for COVID-19 and attempts to track where the person has been since being infected. They will not identify the people who test positive in accordance with HIPPA laws. For more information visit the R.I. Department of Health at:

https://health.ri.gov/data/covid-19/ https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/

TOWN FACILITIES All Town Department Services are available by telephone, email, on-line or by appointment only:

- All Town Government buildings are closed with limited public access by appointment only.
- All Departments within the Town Hall are offering services through telephone, on-line, email, fax, use of drop box and walk up window service located on the West Street side of the Town Hall by appointment only.
- Recreation Department also is available by telephone, email or on-line services.
- The Senior Services Center meal site is closed; however, the Department continues to coordinate box lunches available either to be picked up or delivered, they are also working with the Jamestown food pantries in coordinating food distribution, you can call the Senior Center for services at (401) 423-9804.
- Police, Fire and Public Works Departments limited access, to the buildings also by telephone, email, on-line and by appointment only. Responses for Emergency Services have not changed.
- The Library is closed and can be contacted by telephone or email.
- Jamestown Schools are Distance Learning and can be contacted by telephone or email.

Town Government meetings: have been postponed in an effort to maintain the social distances and avoid further contamination. However, the Governor this past week signed an executive order allowing audio and or video public meetings, we are beginning some of those meeting this coming week. Please check the Secretary of States web site for the scheduled dates. https://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/open-government www.jamestownri.gov also available on the Town of Jamestown's on line calendar and www.jamestownri.gov

What to do if you feel sick?

Call your Doctor: If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms, such as fever, chills, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. In the event you call for the Jamestown Rescue please advise the dispatcher if you suspect you may have the COVID-19 virus. It is recommended by the DOH you perform a daily self-check if you have any of these symptoms call your doctor.

What to do if you are in contact or near a person who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Call your Doctor or medical treatment center, they will advise you depending on the situation what steps to take and what to watch for. They will determine if it was a direct contact. If so, that may require a quarantine period. Indirect contact may require a close self-monitoring and restricted behavior during the monitoring period. Each event must be carefully considered by a health care professional.

What can you do to stop the spread of COVID-19?

Scientists have said we should be following the CDC and Department of Health Recommendations such as 'Social Distancing", stay at least six (6) feet apart and no gatherings of more than ten (10) people regardless of age, washing your hands for at least
twenty (20) seconds as well as all other sanitary precautions listed above in this document and on their web sites. If we all do our part, we can stop the spread of this virus or at least slow it down, this will ultimately help more people survive.

How Can I Help???

Following the self-protection/prevention recommendations and protocols by the CDC and the RI Department of Health (referred in this document) It is suggested you call to check on your neighbors and especially the ones you know might need help. If you are able, consider calling the Rhode Island Blood Center and inquire if you're a candidate to donate a pint of blood. If you have an extra supply of medical masks, respirators, disposable gloves, goggles or any type of personal protective gear offer to donate to first responders. Consider a donation to the Jamestown Food pantries. It has been proven in the past that Jamestowners are truly friendly and always willing to help each other. Any act of kindness in this difficult situation will help our Towns residents. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Betsey Anderson at the Senior Center by calling 401-423-9804.

Preparing your Home for COVID-19

Create a household plan of action to help protect your health and the health of those you care about in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in your community:

Talk with the people who need to be included in your plan, and discuss what to do if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in your community.

Plan ways to care for those who might be at greater risk for serious complications, particularly older adults and those with severe chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease.

Make sure they have access to several weeks of medications and supplies in case you need to stay home for prolonged periods of time.

Get to know your neighbors and find out if your neighborhood has a website or social media page to stay connected.

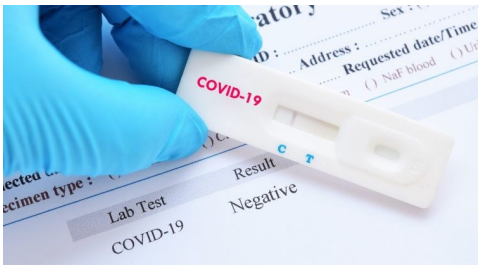
Create a list of local organizations that you and your household can contact in the event you need access to information, healthcare services, support, and resources.

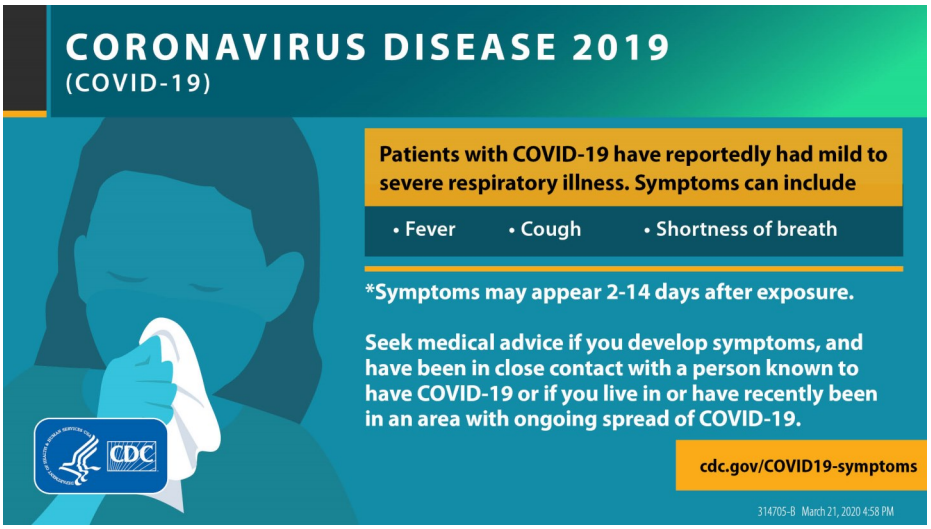
Create an emergency contact list of family, friends, neighbors, carpool drivers, health care providers, teachers, employers, the local public health department, and other community resources.

Can you be tested if you have no symptoms?

Only if you develop symptoms such as fever, cough,

and/or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19, stay home and call your healthcare provider. Older patients and individuals who have severe underlying medical conditions or are immunocompromised should contact their healthcare provider early, even if their illness is mild. If you have severe symptoms, such as persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips of face, contact your healthcare provider or emergency room and seek care immediately. Your doctor will determine if you have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and whether you should be tested. For any health-related questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call your health care provider.





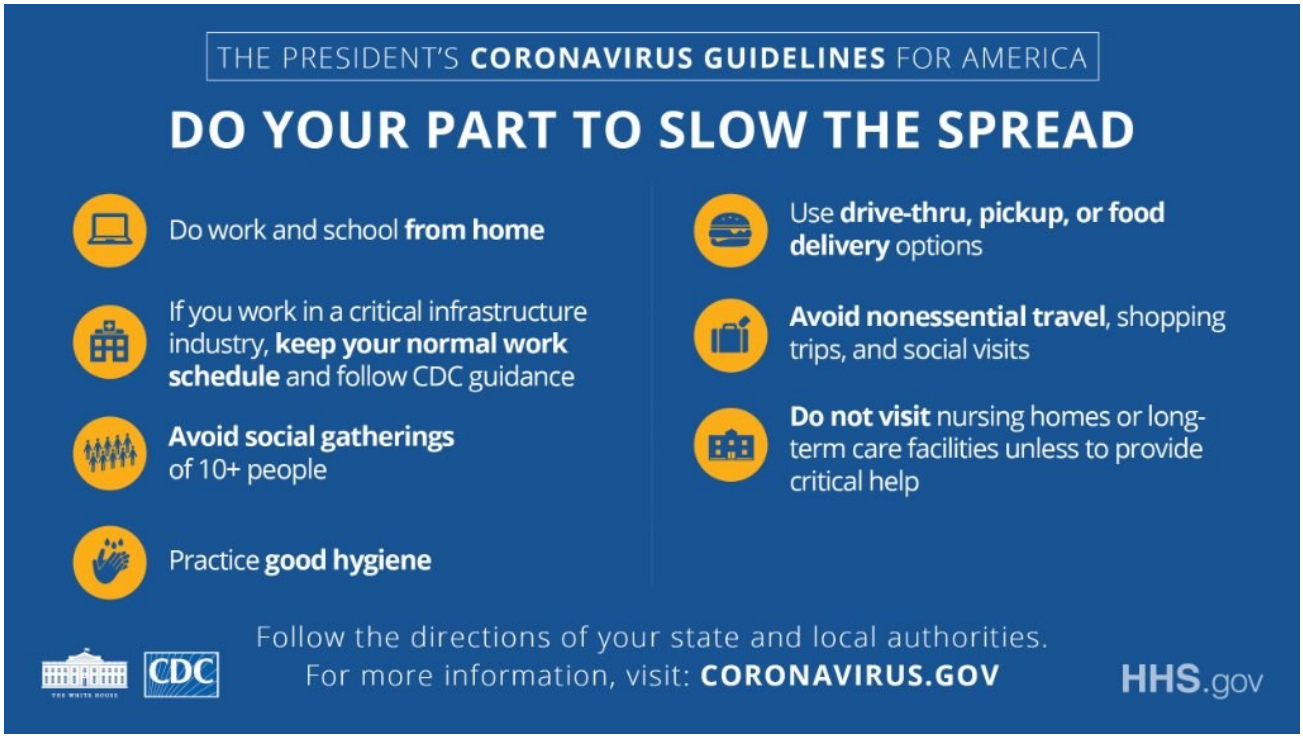
Schools remain closed Distance Learning Days begin Monday 3/23/20 - 4/3/20

The well-being of our Jamestown School Community, students, and staff is our top priority. Our School Administration and School Health personnel are in constant contact with the RI Department of Health and RI Department of Education about health concerns, including COVID-19 (previously referred to as the "coronavirus"). We are working closely with the Town of Jamestown to prepare in the event our schools are impacted.

Please check our website for any updates and resources to help you protect your family from COVID-19. We are following all guidance from the RI Department of Health to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

If your child is showing any symptoms of COVID -19 a fever, cough, shortness of breath please notify our school nurse at 423-7020 x109.

Questions can also be directed to the RI DOH COVID-19 24 hour information line - 401-222-8022.



Parks & Recreation Response to COVID-19
Is the Recreation Center open? Can I still visit recreational facilities?

Beginning the week of March 13, we began taking action to limit and restrict our delivery of services, including restricting the use of our public facilities town wide. Thank you for your patience, it has made this difficult situation a manageable one while the Town's administration implements policies to provide public safety.

The Town has moved forward closed town buildings to the public until further notice, including the Recreation Center. Despite the buildings being closed to the public it is vital that the Town remains open to serve the public. Each Department, including the Parks & Recreation Center, remains open, staffed, and prepared to serve, albeit not in person.

To contact the Parks & Recreation Department we are asking you to do the following:

To Contact by Phone: Dial 423-7260 to reach the Main desk at our office. When Prompted, Choose #1 from the menu. (other options remain available however as staffing may be reduced, we are asking to direct all calls to the general information line to ensure a prompt response)

To Contact via email: Please send all questions regarding programs, reservations, rentals, or other general questions to recreationinfo@jamestownri.net

If you wish to contact the Director, please contact Andy Wade: 423-7266 Email: awade@jamestownri.net

We are committed to continuing to serve the our residents through this time of change and challenges. We will be delivering more information relative to our Department as well as Town as we move forward. Thank you again for your support and cooperation.

- All town athletic facilities will be closed to organized group activities until further notice.
- The Teen Center will remain closed while the school closure is in effect.
- The Community Playground will be closed to the public until further notice.
- Obviously, a difficult decision, however given the popularity of the playground, which on good weather days, receives hundreds of visitors from across the state, it has become a high- risk area for our youth, parents, and grandparents who frequent the facility.

Location: 6 West Street

Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

What: Non-Perishable Food Items, Laundry Detergent, Pet Food & Supplies, Household Cleaners, Paper Goods

Help Your Neighbor Fund - Food & Essential Needs Dropoff

This Saturday, March 28th, we are holding a food and essential needs drop-off outside the Senior Center at 6 West Street. We are working with St. Marks Church and the Community Food Bank in collecting non-perishable foods and essential needs items to distribute to those in Jamestown who are in need. Please consider dropping off items such as canned goods, non-perishable food, toiletries, dish soap, laundry detergent, pet supplies or other essential items. Monetary donations are also being accepted, please make checks out to the Help Your Neighbor Fund.

Please Do Not Shop for these items, we items that you currently have on hand.

YOUR LOGO HERE

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR FOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY THAT WAS DELIVERED WITH THIS NEWLETTER.

IMPORTANT:

IF YOU LIVE IN EITHER HOUSING COMPLEX ON PEMBERTON AVE:

PLEASE COMPLETE AND ADHERE TO THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR DOOR **BY SUNDAY MARCH 29 AT 10:00AM**.

IT WILL BE COLLECTED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JAMESTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT BETSEY ANDERSON 423-9804