



COVID-19 Update for Devens: April 15, 2020

Closure of Non-Essential Services. All businesses and organizations that do not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” remain closed to the public. Businesses are encouraged to continue operations remotely where feasible. Full details at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services> . Some restaurants, bars, and other establishments that sell food and beverages in Devens are still open for take-out and by delivery.

Essential Services Still Operating: Businesses still operating should be following the [CDC guidance for businesses](#) and be sure to share this information with all your employees. The MA Department of Public Health just released [additional guidance](#) for businesses that have non-healthcare-related COVID-19 Essential Service Workers who may have had exposure to a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Existing businesses still operating should review these and ensure they are implementing these practices.

Stay at Home: A Stay-at-Home Advisory remains in effect. Full details on the Advisory are at: bit.ly/COVID19PHA Devens playground is closed and recreational events and facilities such as Red Tail Golf Course and Devens Disc Golf Courses are considered non-essential services and closed as part of this order. Devens recreational fields, trails and open spaces remain open to the general public however we urge all users to practice social distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart from others and avoiding any gatherings or any organized games/activities.

Additional information on COVID-19 for MA residents can be found at: <http://bit.ly/MADPHCOVID19>

Wear a face covering: CDC continues to recommend everyone wear cloth face coverings (not medical-grade) over your nose and mouth in public settings. This is NOT a replacement for social distancing so please continue to stay at least 6 feet apart from others and do not congregate in groups. Learn more at the [CDC website](#) including how to make your own face covering. And don't forget to wash your hands frequently!

Beware of Scammers: There are reports that people, especially seniors, are receiving text messages from scammers posing as the U.S. Department of Health, about a mandatory online COVID-19 test in order to receive the recently approved COVID-19 stimulus payment. Others are receiving emails stating they qualify for a payment and to click on a link to claim a check. If you think the message might be real, contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real. Not the information in the text message. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) has some additional tips on how to avoid these scams. These tips apply to emails as well.

Small Business Assistance: The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission has created an assessment tool used to determine which programs Massachusetts business may qualify for during this economic hardship: <https://cmrpc.typeform.com/to/oUWJ28> . The Massachusetts Office of Business Development has information that can also assist you during this crisis: www.mass.gov/mobd . A guide to the CARES ACT COVID-19 Federal Stimulus package for Small Businesses can be found at: bit.ly/CaresActDevens .

Construction Projects in Devens. Construction projects that are continuing to operate under the Governor's Executive Order must provide the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) with written confirmation that their project specific work meets the definition of “COVID-19 Essential Services”. Projects must also comply with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures for all Devens Construction Sites and Workers - available at: <http://devensec.com/news.html> .

The DEC, acting in its capacity as the local Board of Health for Devens, continues to monitor the situation in Devens in collaboration with the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, the Devens Public Safety Officer (Devens Fire Chief Tim Kelly), and MassDevelopment. **For immediate questions and concerns, residents and businesses can dial 2-1-1.** Any Questions for the DEC can be directed to 978.772.8831.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping to minimize the spread of this virus.