



## **COVID-19 Update for Devens: April 27, 2020**

**Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry Re-Opens.** Loaves & Fishes, an essential community service, reopened on April 24<sup>th</sup> to provide much-needed support during this crisis. They are currently operating as a drive-thru pantry and will be open this week on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are well and able, they are seeking volunteers to assist in their efforts. For complete details, go to: <https://loavesfishespantry.org/>

**Stay at Home:** A Stay-at-Home Advisory remains in effect. Full details on the Advisory are at: [bit.ly/COVID19PHA](http://bit.ly/COVID19PHA). Devens playgrounds and fields are closed for recreational events but remain open to the general public. We urge all users to wear masks and 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:** If you must leave your house, the CDC continues to recommend everyone wear cloth face coverings 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](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0416-face-coverings.html) including how to make your own face covering. **The Nashoba Associated Boards of Health has free face masks available. For more information, contact Bridgette Braley at 978.772.3335 or [bbraley@nashoba.org](mailto:bbraley@nashoba.org).**

**Needed Medical Supplies:** The Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer is open and serving 16 communities during this crisis. They are currently accepting donations of personal protective equipment (or PPE) for their staff. As of the week of April 20, they are most in need of 3 M N95 masks, Clorox Wipes, and Gowns. For more information: <https://www.nashobamed.org/fighting-covid-19-together>

**Essential Services Still Operating:** Businesses still operating should be following the [CDC guidance for businesses](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0416-businesses.html) and be sure to share this information with all your employees. Existing businesses still operating should also be following [additional guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services) from the MA Department of Public Health.

**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.

**Small Business Assistance:** A guide to the CARES ACT COVID-19 Federal Stimulus package for Small Businesses can be found at: [bit.ly/CaresActDevens](http://bit.ly/CaresActDevens). 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](https://www.mass.gov/mobd).

**Beware of Scammers:** There are reports that people, especially seniors, are receiving e-mails and 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. These are likely scams. If you think the message might be real, contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real. Additional tips at [Federal Trade Commission](https://www.federaltrade.commission.gov/) on how to avoid these scams.

**Construction Projects in Devens.** Construction projects that are continuing to operate under the Governor’s Executive Order must 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>.

**Daily Updates:** For daily updates and the latest news on COVID-19 in Massachusetts, go to :  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information#daily-updates->

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.**