

Belmont Housing Authority

59 Pearson Road. Belmont MA 02478

Phone: (617) 484-2160 | Fax: (617) 484-4862

This is an important notice. Please have it translated.

Este é um aviso importante. Queira mandá-lo traduzir.

Este es un aviso importante. Sirvase mandarlo traducir.

ĐÂY LÀ MỘT BẢN THÔNG CÁO QUAN TRỌNG

XIN VUI LÒNG CHO DỊCH LẠI THÔNG CÁO ẤY

Ceci est important. Veuillez faire traduire.

本通知很重要。請將其譯成中文。

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COVID-19 Update #2

March 23, 2020

Dear Residents,

As we navigate thru these unpredictable times, I first want to thank you all for your understanding to the changes we have recently made to our operations. We are here for, and because of, our residents and typically encourage tenant participation and involvement, so it feels counter-intuitive to close the office and the community rooms to the public and encourage residents to stay inside and isolate. Please understand that we do not make these decisions lightly. I also want to thank our residents for their support of each other, and our maintenance team for working so hard to keep residents safe and for assisting with the Belmont Pantry deliveries this weekend.

As we continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, we will continue to provide our residents and employees with helpful information about how to prevent or contain the spread of the virus. Town of Belmont has released 2020-03-20 COVID-19 Latest Public Health Update, which is attached to this letter and available on our website. The health update notice covers the latest information on the COVID-19 situation and asks that residents stay home to help flatten the curve. They are asking that Belmont residents to practice social distancing:

- NO small gatherings (resist the urge to gather with friends to play cards, sports, have dinner, etc.).
- NO play dates (for individuals of any age).
- NO sharing of childcare responsibilities with other families.
 - Essential workers should make every attempt to stagger their schedules with partners to allow for coverage of childcare.

Please:

- Stay at home.
- Minimize the number of trips you take to the store for food and medicine.
- Avoid contact with people who do not live with you in your household.
- Show compassion for your neighbors.

- Make a plan with your elderly neighbors to check in with them on a daily basis via phone or email to help monitor their health and to see if you can help them obtain any food, prescriptions, or other.

DHCD provided guidance thru a public housing notice (PHN) 2020-11. Per this guidance, we are **Limiting visitors at senior sites.** This morning, we posted at all senior building that visitors are to be limited to essential visitors - such as medical personnel (visiting nurses), food programs, crucial homemaking and related services. ***We will continue to keep residents updated and revise procedures as necessary for the safety of all. Our highest priority is resident health and safety. We must work together to minimize the impact to our community.***

The main office and community rooms remain closed to the public until further notice. Staff is available by phone or email. All appointments are cancelled. Residents can drop off rent payments, paperwork for annual or interim changes in the mailbox attached to the main office. **We had added a secure encrypted file share option to our website. The link can be found on the main page, as well as under the ‘current residents’ section of our website.** We encourage residents to notify us of request for interim changes at Office@belmontha.org and to submit paperwork electronically when possible.

Maintenance will continue to be onsite handling emergency workorders, vacant unit turn over and grounds **only.** There will be no routine work orders done during this time, and outside vendors are limited to emergency responses only. The maintenance team is cleaning community rooms and wiping down common entry ways and hand railings at the Sherman Gardens and Waverley Oaks developments regularly.

Maintenance Emergencies as defined in PHN 2020-11.

Maintenance emergency – A condition that is immediately threatening to the life and safety of residents, staff, or structures. (See Property Maintenance Guide (PMG) page 1--10). Below is the minimum list of emergencies that should be called out to maintenance for immediate repair:

Fires of any kind (Call 911)	Door or Window lock failure
Gas leaks or Gas odor (Call 911)	No heat
Broken water pipes or flooding	No hot water
No water or unsafe water	Snow or ice storm
Sewer or toilet blockage	Dangerous structural conditions
Roof leaks	Inoperable Smoke or CO detectors, beeping and chirping detectors
Lock outs	Elevator stoppage or entrapment

“Project Bread” Program. Grab-and-go meals for children age 18 and under will still be available for pick up at the main office. **Please note the change in operations: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12pm to 2pm.** Please be sure to bring a bag with you!

Food Pantry /Bender Bus. Check the town notices for more information on the Belmont Food Pantry. It is our understanding the next food pantry day is April 6th. If you are a senior and want to have the food delivered like we did this past Saturday, please be sure to notify us when we send out the one call now notification!

Senior Meals thru the Council on Aging. Please contact the Council on Aging at (617) 993-2970 if you are interested in their daily mail program. The hot lunches have been suspended, but they are operating and providing bag lunches! Delivery may be available if you qualify under their guidelines.

The BHA notified all residents in the March 16, 2020 Covid-19 letter that they must have access to the www.belmontha.org website and asked residents to update any changes in contact information for the One Call Now system. Updates going forward will be provided electronically thru the BHA website and One Call Now system thru the pendency of the State of Emergency. If you do not have access to the internet, please reach out to a family member or friend and ask that they regularly check out website (www.belmontha.org).

Please continue to report to the BHA if you or anyone in your unit have flu like symptoms (such as a cold, a fever, cough, the chills), if you have been around anyone who is sick or recently traveled internationally, if you are under mandatory or self-quarantine. We are also asking residents to consider reducing the number of visitors and to make sure visitors are also feeling well.

Please reach out to neighbors and plan to call or email regularly to check in on each other, practice social distancing, and wash your hands often!

If you need to update your contact information for our 'One Call Now' mass communication system (email, text and phone calls) or have any questions, please call the office at (617) 484-2160.

Sincerely,



Jaclyn M. Martin, Esq.
Executive Director

Encl. 2020-03-20 COVID-19 Latest Public Health Update

Wesley Chin, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

March 20, 2020

**HELP BELMONT
PLEASE FLATTEN THE CURVE
STAY HOME**

Below is a summary of updates related to the Town of Belmont's response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. The Town of Belmont is committed to providing regular updates on the COVID-19 situation as they become available.

Case Count

There are currently 6 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Belmont residents, with a total of 19 residents who have been directly exposed to the virus and must remain in quarantine at their homes.

The most up to date info on COVID-19 and local cases will be posted at on the Town of Belmont's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

Belmont Public Schools

The Superintendent will post regular updates for parents and students in the [Belmont Public Schools News](#) section of its webpage.

Belmont Food Pantry

The Belmont Food Pantry (BFP) will be open to all Belmont residents to distribute food on **Saturday, March 21st** starting at **8:30 a.m.** with special limitations. Food donations can also be dropped off at the Belmont Food Pantry on Saturday from **10:00-11:00 am**. In honoring the social distance mandate BFP set up distribution as a drive-thru with everyone remaining in their car, pulling up to the volunteer to check in and another volunteer will put the two pre-packed bags, per family, into the car. Walkers are asked to not line up and to keep a distance from each other in the School Administration Building area. The Food Pantry will be closed Sunday, March 22nd



and Tuesday, March 24th, we will assess the situation and let everyone know the continued distribution process. Please send an email to belmontfoodpantry@gmail.com if you have any questions, know anyone who is in need or you are in need of food. Monetary donations can be sent to the Belmont Food Pantry, PO Box 291, Belmont.

Belmont COVID-19 Informational Call Center and Email

For general COVID-19 questions not specific to the Town of Belmont, all Massachusetts residents encouraged to call the state's **2-1-1 hotline** that is staffed by operators 24/7 and with translators available in multiple languages. Residents with questions can dial 2-1-1 from any landline or cellphone or use the live chat option on the on the [Mass 2-1-1 website](#).

The Town of Belmont has also established a **COVID-19 Informational Call Center** to allow residents to ask non-medical questions specific to COVID-19 in Belmont. The call center will be staffed Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and the number for the call center is (617) 993-2222. Questions can also be emailed to: belmonteoc@belmont-ma.gov.

Please call **9-1-1 in the event of an emergency**. Calls should not be made to 9-1-1 to obtain information about COVID-19

What's closed

Statewide:

- All **public and private elementary and secondary schools** throughout the Commonwealth will be closed through April 6th.
- Effective March 23rd, all **public and private daycare providers** will be closed. The Commonwealth will establish Exempt Emergency Child Care Programs to provide priority service for families of emergency personnel, medical staff, and others critical to confronting COVID-19.
- All **restaurants and bars** are prohibited from on-premise consumption of food. However, these food establishments may remain open for now to provide food through take-out or delivery service. These restrictions will extend through April 17th, but may be extended based on the spread of COVID-19.

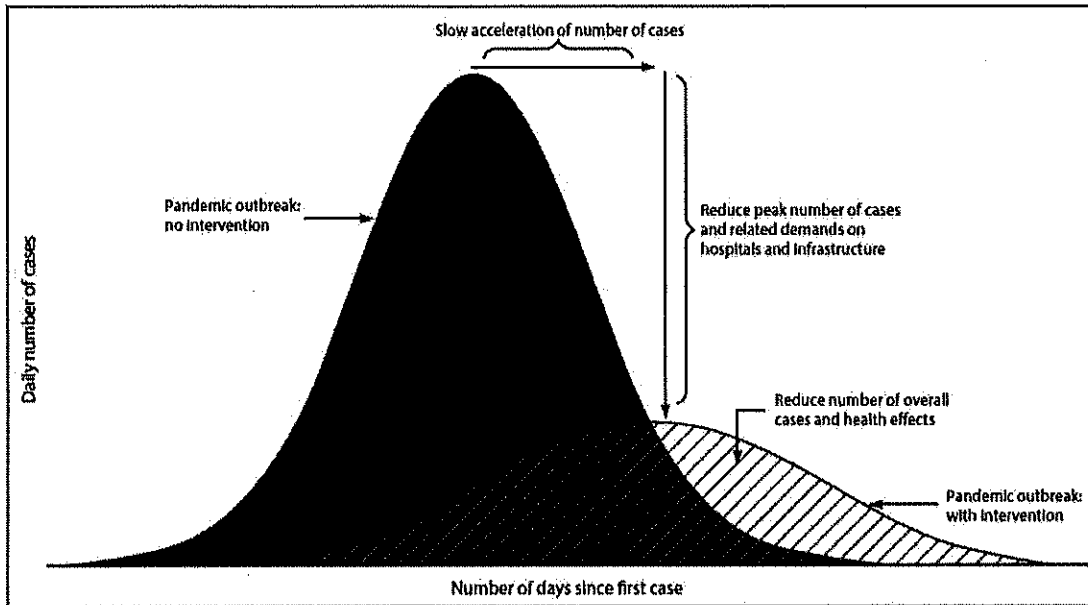
Belmont:

- All Town of Belmont **public playgrounds and fields** (including all playground equipment, basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts) are closed.
 - Effective Saturday, March 21st all fields at the Belmont Hill School will be closed to the public.
- **Public meetings and hearings** will be limited to those that are considered necessary for the purposes of maintaining essential Town of Belmont government functions and that are mandated under federal, state, or local law/regulation. Check the Town's website for board and committee updates.



- **Town Hall Offices, the Belmont Public Library, and the Beech Street Center** are closed to the public until further notice. Residents in need of assistance are encouraged to contact respective Town departments by phone and/or email www.belmont-ma.gov .
- Important updates about COVID-19 and its impact on the Town will be posted at www.belmont-ma.gov .

Flatten the Curve



We have reached a critical moment in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. As of March 19th, there were 328 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts (with Middlesex County responsible for 119 of these cases). Each positive case of COVID-19 contributes to the spread of the virus in at least two or three other individuals. If we do not take immediate action as a community to “*flatten the curve*”, and work together to prevent the exponential rate of infection from peaking too quickly, we will overwhelm our healthcare system, put healthcare workers at risk for infection, and put our loved ones and the most vulnerable in our community at great risk for serious infection that may lead to prolonged hospitalization and/or death. The Belmont Health Department is pleading with residents to more seriously engage in the practice of **social distancing*** for at least the next two weeks, and possibly longer. We understand that this will be a trying time for everyone, but it is important that we slow down the exponential rate of infection of COVID-19.

Please **do not gather in large groups** with people that are not part of your household. This is your chance to potentially help save your life or the life of someone you know. We can all do this together!

This means:



- **NO small gatherings** (resist the urge to gather with friends to play cards, sports, have dinner, etc.).
- **NO play dates** (for individuals of any age).
- **NO sharing of childcare** responsibilities with other families.
 - Essential workers should make every attempt to stagger their schedules with partners to allow for coverage of childcare.

Please:

- **Stay at home.**
- **Minimize the number of trips you take to the store for food and medicine.**
- **Avoid contact with people who do not live with you in your household.**
- **Show compassion for your neighbors.**
 - Make a plan with your elderly neighbors to check in with them on a daily basis via phone or email to help monitor their health and to see if you can help them obtain any food, prescriptions, or other basic needs.

****Social distancing*** helps slow down the spread of disease. Social distancing can be better thought of as "***physical distancing***" and means staying out of congregate settings, avoiding



mass gatherings, and maintaining a distance of 6 feet (minimum) or at least an arm's length away from others when possible. Although physical interactions are strongly discouraged at this time, you are still strongly encouraged to maintain relationships with family and friends through regular phone calls, text messaging, and video conferencing.



