



**City of Northampton
Parks & Recreation**

To: Park & Recreation Participants
From: Ann-Marie Moggio, Director of Parks & Recreation
RE: Programs Affected by Coronavirus
Date: March 11, 2020

The city has been closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation around the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Parks & Recreation staff are working with city officials daily and will evaluate and update as needed on our website.

- Currently we are cancelling and postponing any events or programs with a potential gathering of 100 people or more.
- We are also cancelling/postponing any event or program with a potential gathering of 20 or more people likely to attract groups who are at the highest risk, which includes seniors over the age of 60 or people with underlying health conditions.
- If you are concerned about participation in a program that is still operating, please feel free to reach out to us. We will issue refunds as requested.
- Spring programs coming up will be assessed as we go along and participants notified as or if things change.
- We ask that if you feel ill, please stay home.

Programs currently being postponed:

- Pickleball
- Open Basketball
- Over 30 Basketball
- Open Volleyball
- Community Garden New Gardener Registration scheduled for March 21: This will be conducted online. More information will be available soon.
- Some meetings (softball managers, etc.) will be held via conference calls or online. Check our website for details.

If you have any concerns and would like to request a refund for a program you are a part of, we will issue you one upon receiving your request. Please send your request via email to recreation@northamptonma.gov or you may call us at 413-587-1040.

How Best To Protect Yourself From Getting Coronavirus:

Currently the risk of contracting the Coronavirus in Massachusetts still remains low. Conversely, it is the season for respiratory illness, so the recommendations below on how best to protect yourself apply in both cases. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending personal preparedness and protective measures, including Personal Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs). NPIs are measures taken to help prevent the spread of diseases that do not include medications.

Currently, there are no medications or vaccinations available to prevent COVID-19, however, everyone should practice these respiratory illness prevention protocols:

- Diligent hand washing with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Stay home from school, work and other people when you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and a cough
- Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) of people who are sick
- Routine cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas with EPA approved disinfectants
- Stay informed – <http://www.northamptonma.gov/245/Health>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

A Couple Other Things to Consider to Protect Yourself from Illness

- Increase the frequency of routine cleaning and disinfecting at home and your place of work. Especially consider those high touch areas such as; elevators buttons, door knobs, bathrooms, public facing counters.
- Think about your excursions to shopping centers, restaurants, entertainment venues
 - Wipe off carts, seats and hard surface
 - Carry a 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer with you
- Think about packages that you receive from all over the world. Many use the internet to shop. Virus can live longer on certain surfaces, such as cardboard and plastic.
- Consider limiting unnecessary travel.