



**MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ**  
City of Northampton  
210 Main Street Room 12  
Northampton, MA 01060-3199  
(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275  
mayor@northamptonma.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, March 16, 2020

## Mayor Narkewicz Declares a Local State of Emergency in Northampton

**Northampton, MA** - Effective Immediately, Mayor David Narkewicz has declared a local state of emergency for the City of Northampton in response to the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19). In conjunction with emergency orders from Governor Charlie Baker, the following list of updated closures and restrictions are in place between Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 until April 7, 2020:

- All elementary and secondary schools in Northampton are closed.
- All gatherings are limited to a maximum of 25 individuals.
- On-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants is prohibited.
- Municipal buildings and facilities remain closed to the public and will begin operating with reduced staffing to provide emergency and essential services only. Non-emergency personnel will work remotely to the extent possible to minimize potential COVID-19 exposure and transmission.
- With the exception of city governmental or regulatory bodies, all Northampton executive branch board, committee, and commission meetings are canceled during the state of emergency.
- Governmental and regulatory boards that must meet will move to remote participation meetings as authorized by Governor Baker. Residents may attend such meetings via remote participation only. Governmental and regulatory boards will disseminate information and instructions to the public about remote participation for each meeting.

Residents are asked for their understanding and to defer all non-emergency inquiries during this time as we work to protect all residents and staff. If residents have urgent business with a city department, please call or email for instructions.

Residents are also urged to practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible. The CDC defines social distancing as it applies to COVID-19 as "remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible." With the above measures, the city and the Commonwealth have modeled behavior that will help ensure that we do not overwhelm our health care capacity. THIS IS NOT A SNOW DAY. Individuals and families should restrict social interactions such as child play dates, parties, and other social gatherings with the goal of limiting contact that could potentially spread the disease.

Mayor Narkewicz will continue to update the public as events unfold. We know there is a lot of information circulating about this disease on social media and elsewhere, but residents are urged to only follow advice from credible sources and to adopt the most conservative posture possible. Please visit the city's website at [www.northamptonma.gov/coronavirus](http://www.northamptonma.gov/coronavirus) for the most up-to-date information available.