



TOWN OF DALTON

**Town Hall
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ORDER OF THE SELECT BOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH PROHIBITING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and on March 16, 2020, the President of the United States recommended that all citizens avoid gathering in groups of more than ten people

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Select Board of the Town of Dalton and its Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of Dalton; and

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth and Berkshire County. As of March 17, 2020, 14 cases of COVID-19 were reported by the Department of Public Health in Berkshire County

WHEREAS, the Select Board of the Town of Dalton and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Dalton and declared that a state of emergency exists in the town, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies, including the cancellation of large events;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health is urging all residents of the Commonwealth to practice social distancing when outside of their homes; and

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts General Laws also provide that “[if] a disease dangerous to the public health exists in a town, the selectmen and board of health shall use all possible care to prevent the spread of the infection and may give public notice of infected places by such means as in their judgment may be most effectual for the common safety.” G.L. c. 111, §104

NOW, THEREFORE, The Select Board and Board of Health of the Town of Dalton do hereby order the following:

Gatherings of over 10 people are prohibited throughout the Town of Dalton. Gatherings subject to this Order include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any event or activity that brings together 10 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theatre, gymnasium, fitness center, private club, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.

Any restaurant, bar, or establishment that offers food or drink shall not permit on premises consumption of food or drink; provided that such establishments may continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery provided that they follow the social distancing protocols set forth in Department of Public Health guidance.

This Order shall not apply to any Annual or Special Town Meeting.

The Board of Health or its' authorized agent may issue guidance, to implement the terms of this Order. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, along with Dalton Board of Health or authorized agent pursuant to G.L. c. 111, §30, shall enforce this Order and if necessary may do so with the assistance of municipal police. Violation of the terms of this Order or the guidance issued may result in penalties pursuant to the By-Laws of the Town of Dalton and General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This Order is effective March 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect through April 5, 2020 unless further extended.

Date: 3-18-2020

Robert W. Bishop, Jr.
Name: Robert W. Bishop, Jr.
Title: Chair, Select Board

Date: 3/18/2020

Daniel M. Doyle, M.D.
Name: Daniel M. Doyle, M.D.
Title: Chair, Board of Health