

COVID-19 Update - June 8, 2020



Dear Residents,

We continue to see a decline in COVID related hospitalizations across our state. Pomfret currently has 13 confirmed positive cases of the virus. Windham County has 389 confirmed Covid 19 cases. As the state ramps up its contact tracing and testing capacity, the Governor is encouraging residents to get tested if they have encountered someone who is positive or showing symptoms.

The Governor recently announced a loosening of directives regarding social gathering. The new executive order permits social gatherings of up to 10 people indoors and up to 25 outdoors. Houses of worship can have up to 100 people during services or up to 25 percent capacity, whichever is less. Outdoor services can have up to 150 people. In addition, gyms can conduct outdoor training with up to 25 people and hair salons and barbershops are able to open their doors to the public by appointment only. These loosened restrictions mandate that social distancing must be maintained, and masks must be worn when social distancing cannot be adhered to. The second phase of the state re-opening plan starts June 20th.

Starting next week, Pomfret's Town Hall will be open, staffed and back to normal hours except for Wednesday evenings when we will close at 5 pm instead of 6 pm. Our Building Official, Fire Marshal, and Zoning Enforcement Officer are working on their own schedule, taking calls and making inspections and appointments as needed. As we are not open to the public at this time there is no need to stay until 6pm. I will continue to evaluate the situation and make a decision on when to open the Town Hall to the public, most likely in late June and by appointment and only on specific days during certain hours. Modifications of the building to protect our employees and the public are still in the works. Plexiglass shields, limited access to office spaces, and an intercom system will be complete soon.

The **Building Official Office** Joe Pajak is available by phone (860-974-2972), email buildingofficial@pomfretct.gov, or appointment.

The **Fire Marshal**, Norm Perron, is available by phone (860-974-2972), email firemarshal@pomfretct.gov, or appointment.

The **Land Use Offices** are available by phone (860-974-9135), email, or appointment.

- Planning & Zoning, and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses applications are available online and can be dropped off in the box in the vestibule of back door at the Town Hall. The Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer, Ryan Brais, is available by email: rbrais301@hotmail.com

Residents are encouraged to conduct business on-line when possible or use available drop boxes outside the main entrance of Town Hall.

We will open a window in the front room of Town Hall for the **Tax Collector** to collect taxes so taxpayers will not have to come into the building. A mil slot will also be installed on the front door. It's the next best thing to drive up! Contact: <https://www.pomfretct.gov/tax-collectors-office> or 860-974-0394.

The **Recreation** Director is planning on some fun events this summer. Check <https://www.facebook.com/Pomfretrecreationdepartment/> for details. The Recreation Park is opening June 6 with rules established to protect the public. It will stay open as long as those rules are followed.

Our **Library** is open their usual hours for curbside pickup. <https://www.pomfretlibrary.org/whats-on/not-so-little-free-library/> You can place a reserve online; send an email to circdesk@pomfretlibrary.org or give a call (860-928-3475). You'll get a confirmation email (or phone call) once your books or videos are ready for you. Call when you're on the way or once you're in the parking lot and your things will be placed on the shelf on the front step.

Our **Department of Public Works** has been on the job throughout the past 3 months as essential workers. They are maintaining our roads, buildings and fleet of vehicles. Mowing of the road rights-of-way and sweeping up the winter sand is now underway. Give them a thumbs up next time you pass them.

Senior programs remain cancelled and the Community Center is closed. TEEG is reaching out to our seniors and providing three TVCCA lunches a week which are picked up on Tuesday mornings.

The Pomfret **Food Pantry** hours are Monday 5:30 - 6:30 pm and Tuesday 11:30 am- 12:30 pm, and by appointment. Call Garry Brown at 860-928-2309. The Pantry is located at the back of the Community Center. Pomfret residents may also utilize the TEEG Food Pantry at 15 Thatcher Road in North Grosvenordale by calling 860-923-3458.

Mobil Food Pantry has increased to one per month. TEEG will offer the next food distribution day on Wednesday, July 1 from 10 am until noon at the Town Hall. Please call TEEG 860-923-3458 or the Selectman's office at 860-974-0191 for more information. All residents are welcome.

The Governor's Executive Order 7II, Governor Lamont ordered the closure of all public-school classes through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The Distance Learning Program for **Pomfret Community School** students will end on Thursday, June 11, 2020 which is the last scheduled day of school. A virtual graduation will be held on Thursday, June 18.

June is **dog licensing** month. A recent executive order has extended the late fee from July 1st to August 1st. Instead of coming to Town Hall you can pay by mail. The license and tag will then be mailed back. All current registered dog owners will be receiving a letter from the Town Clerk this week about the new process. For new registrants, information can be found on

licensing requirements by calling the Town Clerk's office at 860-315-5730 or visiting the website at <https://www.pomfretct.gov/town-clerk/pages/dog-licensing>

Please visit the **Town's website** <https://www.pomfretct.gov/> and sign up for **E-Alerts** and **CTAlerts** as well as the PCS website: <https://www.pomfretcommunityschool.org/>

On a final note, our traditional Memorial Day Parade was cancelled. Please take some time this month to remember those brave men and women in the military who have given their lives for our country. Take a walk through one of our many cemeteries and take in the flags that have been placed on the graves of veterans. It is a sobering moment.

Pomfret has courageously pulled together these last few months to get us through this evolving public health tragedy. Let's continue to tackle any new challenges we face together as one community. Remember to support our local businesses when possible and maintain our vigilance while re-opening parts of our town in a safe, cautious manner. Enjoy the warm weather, and summer which begins on June 20.

Please stay safe and stay healthy. Please wear a mask, and protect your coworkers, family, and neighbors.

Maureen Nicholson
First Selectman
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