COVID-19 UPDATE

4/22/2020

Mayor Dean Mazzarella
• Mayor’s Office - 978-534-7500, ext. 0
• Emergency Management Agency – 978-534-7500, ext. 5055
• Meals on Wheels through the senior center – 978-345-8501
• Leominster Veterans Center – 978-534-7538
• State Hotline – 211
• For emergencies always call 911

• MART will be limiting Council on Aging rides to grocery stores, medical appointments and pharmacy. MART will also not be charging any fares during this time. For rides, call the Senior Center at 978-534-7511.

To receive updates from the state, text COVIDMA to 888-777
Text COVIDMAESP to 888-777 for updates in Spanish

To volunteer with the city, contact EMA at 978-534-7500, ext. 5055
CITY HALL IS HERE FOR YOU!

MANY FORMS AVAILABLE ON LINE

OR CALL US AND WE’LL MEET YOU!

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Hotline Number – 978-534-7700, ext. 1341
LPS_hotline@leominsterschools.org

School Breakfast/Lunch Pickup
Sites: Johnny Appleseed, Frances Drake, LHS and Fallbrook - Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Go to www.LeominsterSchools.org for e-learning opportunities
NE**WS FROM THE STATE**

- **NEW** The portal for state unemployment is now open for self-employed, independent contractors, workers with limited work history and others). [Www.mass.gov/PUA](http://Www.mass.gov/PUA)

- 400 vents have arrived from New York.

- Schools closed through the end of the year

- Student loans – state dept of higher ed is deferring loans for 4 months for no interest loans (affects 12,000 students)

- Non-essential child care services closed until June 29.

- The Baker/Polito Administration will be working on expanding distance learning.

- To support families of essential workers and families with children who have special needs, EEC and Care.com have partnered to assist currently unemployed child care workers and provide skilled in-home care. Care.com is offering both eligible families and child care workers free 90-day premium memberships, accessible at [care.com/mass](http://care.com/mass).

- In partnership with EEC, DHE, the STEM Advisory Council and Regional STEM Networks, DESE has established online STEM education resources to provide continued support for remote learning opportunities. This includes virtual STEM learning opportunities for both students and teachers. [http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/stem/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/stem/)
NEWS FROM THE STATE

• 200,000 respiratory masks will be delivered to fire and police through new distribution centers (like us!)
• Additional funds available for emergency shelters and foster families
• IMPORTANT: PLEASE ANSWER THE PHONE OR CALL BACK IF YOU RECEIVE A CALL FROM THE TRACING TEAM! It means someone you have come in contact with has COVID and they just have a few questions. Based on your answers, they will advise you what you need to do.
• PPE distribution update – 5 million in total
• New info – system to track hospital beds available. Current: **18,000 beds available** for COVID patients including (6500 acute care, 2500 ICU, 750 field beds)
• Family Health line for nursing home patients – 617-660-5399
• Sexual assault/domestic violence hotline – 877-785-2020
• Are you a health care worker that would like to help out? Sign up at Mass.gov/JoinCovid
TESTING SITES

**HEALTH ALLIANCE**

- **LOCATED UNDER THE PARKING DECK**
- **8AM-4PM MONDAY-FRIDAY**
- **10-2PM WEEKENDS**

**COVID-19 Testing Tent**

Now accepting symptomatic patients without doctor’s orders

**Symptoms include:**
- Fever of 100° or more
- Cough
- New or worsening shortness of breath
- Loss or change in smell
- Confirmed exposure to person with COVID-19 and symptoms

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**RELIANT**

- If you are experiencing respiratory symptoms (coughing, fever, shortness of breath), call your Reliant doctor’s office first.

- Following physician/advanced practitioner orders, a nurse will help to determine if you are eligible for COVID-19 testing.

- If testing is recommended, you will be scheduled to visit one of our outdoor drive-through testing clinics. Depending on the demand for testing, this may not be the same day.

***Testing at reliant is for Reliant Customers only***
Transfer station closed on Saturdays

Starburst has been postponed until August 22

The Board of Health Recycling Day on May 16 has been postponed. Date to be determined

Leominster Emergency Management has been delivering 300 meals per day and 1100 for the weekend including coordination with Ginny’s.

From conservation: Please pick up after your dog, especially on the trails. Conservation has been receiving many complaints. Let’s keep the trails clean!
We have extended the due date of the Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills to June 1st to help those who may have a problem paying them by May 1st. All other city bills such as Water / Sewer or Motor Vehicle excise are due 30 days from their issue date.

However, we will not charge interest or penalties for any bill due after March 10, 2020 as long as those bills are paid by June 30th.

We have also extended the application date for Real Estate exemptions to June 1st.

Please remember that the city has financial obligations also and we would appreciate your payments as soon as reasonably possible.

You can mail in your payments, go to our website www.leominster-ma.gov and pay online or you can drop your payment in the Black Mailbox at the top of the front steps on the right side of door. (West Street Entrance)
BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

The open burning of brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris excluding grass, hay, leaves, and stumps is permitted from January 15 to May 1 of each year, during periods of good atmospheric conditions.

- A permit is required daily, by contacting the Leominster Fire Department
- Open burning shall be conducted on land proximate to the place of generation
- Open burning for commercial or institutional land clearing for non-agricultural purposes is prohibited
- All open fires shall be located not less than 75 feet from any building or structure (including wooden, plastic or vinyl fences)
- The use of accelerants such as gasoline, propane, or any other flammable gas or liquid is prohibited.
- Burning is permitted between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm, with all fires ignited prior to 2:00pm and extinguished no later than 4:00pm. No permits will be granted after 12:00pm.
- All fires must be attended by a person 18 years of age or older, accompanied with a charged garden hose, or other acceptable means of extinguishment.
- Open burning shall be conducted without causing a nuisance
- Permits for open burning may be revoked at anytime by the Leominster Fire Department.
COMCAST ESSENTIALS PROGRAM

• Comcast is offering 2 months free internet to eligible households. Eligibility is based on income. Those eligible for National School Lunch Program, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI and others are generally eligible.

• Are not an existing Comcast Internet customer

• You can sign up from your mobile device at https://apply.internetessentials.com

• If you apply by April 30, 2020 and are pre-approved you will receive the 2 month free promotion. After that it will cost $9.95 per month plus tax unless you choose to cancel, which is an option.

• ***This link is listed directly on the City homepage at www.leominster-ma.gov.***
NEW GROCERY STORE GUIDANCE

- Each grocery store limit occupancy to 40% of its maximum permitted occupancy level (except stores with a max of less than 25 people).

- The guidance builds on a previous March 23 order for grocery stores, which set out policies for ensuring access to handwashing facilities and protecting employees in higher-risk populations, among other requirements.
Mass Cultural Council’s COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals provides $1,000 grants to people who have lost income derived from their work as individual artists and independent teaching artists/humanists/scientists as a direct result of COVID-19 related cancellations and closures in Massachusetts.

Who is eligible for the Economic Impact Payment?
- U.S. citizens or resident aliens who:
  - Have a valid Social Security number,
  - Could not be claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer, and
  - Had adjusted gross income under certain limits.

Who will receive the Economic Impact Payment automatically without taking additional steps?
- Most eligible U.S. taxpayers will automatically receive their Economic Impact Payments including:
  - Individuals who filed a federal income tax for 2018 or 2019
  - Individuals who receive Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits
  - Individuals who receive Railroad Retirement benefits

Who should use Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info to provide additional information to receive the Economic Impact Payment? To enter info, go to IRS.gov and click on non-filers.
- Eligible U.S. citizens or permanent residents who:
  - Had gross income that did not exceed $12,200 ($24,400 for married couples) for 2019
  - Were not otherwise required to file a federal income tax return for 2019, and didn't plan to
  - Those that do not have direct deposit for social security or federal disability benefit or did not use direct deposit for tax returns in 2018 or 2019.
DIRECT PAYMENTS

- Most individuals making less than $75,000 can expect to receive $1200.00. Married couples making under $150,000 will also receive $500.00 per child.
- Checks will be scaled down after $75,000, cutting off at income of $99,000.
- Checks should be coming in about 3 weeks.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- The bill adds $600 per week from the federal government on top of whatever the base amount a worker receives from the state. Boosted payment lasts 4 months.
- Waives the normal wait period.
- Adds an additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment benefits.
- Allows for part-time, self-employed and gig economy workers to access benefits.

****For those who were not previously in categories eligible for unemployment, the state is awaiting new guidelines from the federal government before you can apply. An announcement will be coming shortly on when you can apply.
Business questions at city hall – Melissa tasca, 978-534-7500, ext. 3579

Chamber of commerce – 978-353-7600 or help@northcentralmass.com

If your company thinks they can help the state by making PPE – apply at www.MassTech.org.

https://www.mass.gov/workshare-for-employers for information on the workshare program

For all SBA business information, visit www.Leominster-ma.gov
Leominster, Lancaster & Sterling Veterans' Services

Looking for a great outdoor social distancing project?

Veterans' grave markers need sprucing up! Memorial Day will be here soon enough and our cemeteries could use your help.

No need for maps or directions, just get out to one of the cemeteries with some gloves, a spade, a bucket, a brush.. (anything to help clear the grass from our veteran markers)
YARD & WASTE PICKUP

April 6 through May 30

From the DPW

Please do not flush anything that will clog the system including cleaning wipes!

The Leominster Water Dept is flushing hydrants. Watch for daily updates.

Dog licenses

Dog license renewals have been extended until June 1, 2020
Give Blood! Appointments are necessary. Call 1-800-Red Cross or www.redcross.org/Massachusetts.

Resources for kids! Check out www.LeominsterLibrary.org

Free WIFI! Back of the library. Join “LeoLibGuest”, no password required!

Conservation Activities! Just go to www.Leominster-ma.gov

Bear Hunt! Over 300 bears across the city. Bear addresses can be found at City of Leominster FB page.
REGISTRY UPDATE

• Appointments can be made by calling 857-368-8000.

• Registries open for appointment are Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Worcester, Lawrence, Pittsfield, Plymouth, and Springfield.

• 60 day extension for licenses. If your license expires April 15, it will now expire June 15.

• All passenger plate registrations that have expired in March or will be expiring in April have been extended for 60 days. Registrations that expired in March have been extended until May 31st and registrations that expire in April have been extended until June 30th.

• All commercial and non-commercial vehicle inspection stickers that expire on March 31, 2020 (designated by a number 3 on the inspection sticker) must be inspected by May 31, 2020.

• All commercial and non-commercial vehicle inspection stickers that expire on April 30, 2020 (designated by a number 4 on the inspection sticker) must be inspected by June 30, 2020.
Help support Leominster's independent retailers from the comfort of your couch. You can even wear your favorite pajamas. We won't judge you.

Participating Stores:
- Amy’s Art Tavern
- Buzz + Thrive Gardens
- City Music
- Cutie Patutie’s Consignment
- Cutiques Etc
- Force’s Time Capsule
- Hall Of Fame Of Leominster
- House of Relics
- Len Brassard’s Family Martial Arts Center
- Magic Lamp Consulting & Grant Writing Services
- New Whalom Cooperative
- Northeast Promotion and Apparel
- Sage Home Collections

Please note: this event is scheduled to run until May 4.

If your business is offering online shopping and you would like to be included in this list, just email mtasca@leominster-ma.gov.
**Community Resources**

**United Way**

STAND UNITED COVID 19 RESPONSE FUND. To donate, go to uwncm.org or text COVIDHELP to 50511. To access funds, call United Way at 211.

**Growing Places**

– fresh fruit and veggies. Every Wednesday – Leominster Senior Center Parking lot 11:00-12:30pm, corner of Mechanic and Laurel, 3:30 to 4:30pm. SNAP and HIP eligible.

**Catholic Charities**

including food pantry. Hours will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30pm-4:30pm by appointment. Please call 978-840-0696.

**Ginny’s Food Pantry**

hours will be Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm. In addition, Now delivering thanks to a partnership with EMA! Just call 978-537-1387.

**RU OK Program?**

Designed for senior citizens, medically disabled persons and shuts in. Call 978-534-7560, ext. 3432.
Wash your hands

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Clean things frequently

Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze

Stay home if you are sick

Think ahead about caring for you and your family
THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR!

Thanks for Donating!

- Dr. Todd Rowe
- Dr. Brian McDowell
- Dr. Thafur Marian
- Dr. Joanne Marian
- Dr. Verne Goldsher
- Dr. Nick DiNinno
- Dr. David Gianino
- Dr. Ted Nelson
- Dr. Mario Aboujaoude
- Dr. Geeta Bhaireddy
- Dr. Michael Mossman
- Dr. BJ Coakley
- Dr. Walker
- Dr. Joe Langford
- Dr. William Southworth
- Dr. Myles Heffernan
- Dr. Lindsay Bruneau
- Dr. David Amparo
- Dr. Brian Rusak
- Central Mass. Oral Surgery
- Adams Tool
- United Solutions
- O’Conner Companies
- Sue Zephir and Ginny’s Helping Hand
- Jeff Richard/R&S Hauling and Excavating
- US Pak & Dr. Fricke
- AIS
- Piccolo Mondo Learning Center
- Todd Deacon
- Fosta Tek
- Boitech Builders Group
- Lowe’s
SENIOR SHOPPING HOURS

Hours are changing and expanding weekly. Check with your favorite stores to see day and times.

RESTAURANT TAKE OUT AND DELIVERY

Check out Leominster Community Development on FB or check out your local restaurant websites and FB pages for all the updated info.
435 Bar & Grille take-out
A Taste of Vietnam take-out
Applebee's Grill + Bar take-out and delivery
Aroma Joe's Coffee take-out and delivery
Athens Pizza Central Street take-out
Athens Pizza North Leominster take-out
Brazucão Lanches take-out and delivery
C&M PIZZA take-out and delivery
Changes Pizza take-out and delivery
China City take-out and delivery
Comeketo - Brazilian Cuisine take-out and delivery
Cristina's Restaurant take-out
Domino's Pizza take-out and delivery
El Changarro take-out and delivery
Garibaldi Mexican Restaurant take-out and delivery
Hailey's Take Out take-out and delivery
Il Camino take-out
The GazBar Sports Grill take-out
Leominster House of Pizza take-out and delivery
LongHorn Steakhouse take-out
Luccas American Kitchen take-out
Moe's Southwest Grill take-out and delivery
Munchies To Go take-out and delivery
North End Diner take-out
NY PIZZA take-out and delivery
Olive Garden take-out and delivery
Paisanos Pizza take-out and delivery
Papa Gino's take-out and delivery
Papous Pizzas take-out
Pastaland take-out
Popcorn Castle at Bourbeau's Market take-out
Roasted Peppers take out and delivery
SaMoreRay's at Dandini Liquors
SHAKE N DOG take-out
Slate Bar & Grille take-out and delivery
Tang Dynasty - Leominster take-out
Taquería el amigo 2 take-out
Te Landos Sub Pizzeria of Leominster take-out
Texas Roadhouse - Leominster, MA take-out
Thai Jasmine take-out and delivery
Tomatoes Pizzeria take-out and delivery
Uno Pizzeria & Grill take-out and delivery
West End Diner Leominster ma take-out
OFF PREMISES SALES OF ALCOHOL

• Through May 4
• All on premises licenses (bars, restaurants, general on premises, hotels, taverns, clubs, war veterans clubs, and continuing care retirement communities) may sell up to 192 ounces of malt beverage and 1.5 liters of wine for off-premises consumption only as part of a transaction for the purchase of food.
• May only be done from opening until 12:00 midnight.
• Must be in original sealed containers.
• Must verify that the purchaser and recipient of the alcohol are at least 21.
• Sales must be made as part of a takeout order by way of pick up, including curb side, or delivery.
Leominster Parks & Open Space

26 miles of hiking trails

Barrett Park—Hiking trails, picnic area, 8.9 acre pond with walking trail

Carter Park—walking path, benches, gazebo

Evelyn Hachey Park—seating and walking

Cormier Memorial Park—walking path, benches

Monoosnoc Brook Greenway—walking path, benches

Monument Square—walking path, benches, music

Prospect Park—hiking trails, mountain biking

Mechanic Street Park—3 acres of open space and seating

Sholan Farms—hiking, gazebos

Doyle Field—walking tracks, seating and open space

And so much more!
WLPZ, 95.1 – YOUR INFORMATION SOURCE
95.1FM
Streaming on WLPZ.org
Or on their FB page

And don’t forget your census!