



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARCH 19, 2020, CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FROM THE CITY OF NORTH ADAMS

NORTH ADAMS, MA (March 19, 2020)

Friends,

I want to begin with a reminder from the Northern Berkshire COVID-19 Operations Center. The operations team, and especially our community liaisons, appreciates everyone who has reached out to help meet community needs specific to the COVID-19 response in our eight northern Berkshire communities. They are committed to collecting information now with the understanding that some resources are not immediately needed, that will be soon. Please continue to direct requests and offers of assistance to 413-662-3614 or nbcovid@gmail.com.

For those looking to do something fast, easy, and confidential to stand up for the individuals and agencies that serve and support the most vulnerable members of our community, while practicing and modeling social distancing, may I suggest taking a few minutes to fill out your 2020 Census questionnaire? An accurate census count helps determine how federal dollars are allocated every year to our communities, and this will be critical to the economic and social recovery of North Adams, Berkshire County, and Massachusetts that the COVID-19 pandemic will require. You can complete the Census questionnaire online at www.2020census.gov, over the phone at 1-844-330-2020, or by mail.

Supporting our residents

Beginning Thursday March 19, the North Adams Stop and Shop will be open 6:00 to 7:30 a.m. daily to serve customers age 60 and older in a less crowded environment, effectively allowing the process of social distancing to be used. In North Adams, the designated entry during these service hours will be on the produce side of the building, that is, the front door on the left. Store employees will not check identification at the door but they ask people to respect the purpose of the early opening.

Supporting small businesses

The Baker-Polito Administration announced today that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will offer low-interest federal disaster loans to Massachusetts small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19. Small businesses, private non-profit organizations of any size, small agricultural cooperatives and small aquaculture enterprises that have been financially impacted as a direct result of the COVID-19 since January 31, 2020, may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants also may call SBA's customer service center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Keeping you informed

Mayor Tyer and I will be live on PCTV tomorrow afternoon (Friday, March 20) at 2:30 with Dr. James Lederer from BMC to provide a COVID-19 update. People in Pittsfield can watch the program live via PCTV City Link (channel 1303 in Pittsfield), and everyone can see it on Facebook Live as well as through PCTC's Roku and Apple TV channel "PCTV Select." The show also will be recorded and made available on Northern Berkshire Community Television following the live broadcast.

Mayor Tom Bernard