



FYI SALEM

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVID Update	2
Bridge Street Neck Zoning	3
Voter Registration Deadline	3
Schools Update	4

From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

While our local economy is recovering from the setback we experienced last year due to COVID, many residents are still struggling.

If you are a renter having difficulty making rent, or if you're a Salem landlord who has tenants facing challenges in making their rent, there are a number of options available to you right now.

First, you should know that the Essex County Bar Association offers free lawyer referral service and 30-minute consultation. Click here: <https://www.essexcountybar.org/lawyer-referral-service#lrsform> for their

online referral form or call them at: (978) 741-7888.

The City of Salem's own local rental relief program, START, offers two \$500 rental assistance checks to income eligible households that have been impacted by COVID-19. The program is administered by North Shore Community Action Programs (NSCAP). Contact NSCAP at (978) 548-5776 or email NSCAP at funds2020@nscap.org to apply or ask questions. For more information, visit www.salem.com/start.

The Rental Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Fund helps keep income eligible households in stable housing situations when facing eviction, foreclosure, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies caused by loss of income, increase in expenses, or both. RAFT helps all kinds of households by providing up to \$10,000 per household to help preserve current housing or move to new housing. This program is administered through the Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development, but it is available to Salem resi-

dents. Visit www.Lhand.org to apply or call (339) 883-2342 to learn more.

Lastly, Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) funds are available to low-income families who have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and may not be eligible for RAFT. Like RAFT, ERMA may provide up to \$10,000 for eligible households to assist with rent or mortgage arrears accrued after April 1, 2020 and/or with upcoming rent or mortgage payments. This program is also administered through the Lynn Housing Authority. Visit www.Lhand.org to apply or call (339) 883-2342 to learn more.

If you need help, please reach out to these programs. They're here to assist you and your family as we all recover from this pandemic together.

Thanks, as always, for reading FYI Salem and don't forget you can find the FYI Salem podcast at www.salem.com/fyisalempodcast!

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

COVID Update

With rising case numbers and the expanding prevalence of the Delta variant of COVID-19, the City of Salem has announced several pro-active mitigation measures to help ensure the community stays safe, open, and strong this summer and fall.

- **Masks are required indoors** for all businesses and City buildings open to the public effective August 23rd through November 14th.
- The City has asked the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to resume **targeted wastewater surveillance** in high-risk parts of the City. For the last few months wastewater surveillance was being conducted on a city-wide basis, given the decline in Alpha variant cases.
- The City has resumed **daily updates** on local COVID-19 case data at www.salem.com/covid.
- The City is requesting that the Commonwealth extend the **free COVID-19 “Stop the Spread” testing through the end of 2021**, which had been scheduled to end October 31st.
- The City is working with municipal and school employees on a policy to **require COVID-19 vaccination or twice weekly negative testing** for all workers. All businesses in Salem, especially those that interact directly and in-person with the public and with visitors particularly, are encouraged to join in **adopting a similar vaccination or negative-testing requirement policy for their employees**. Businesses that do so will be included in the *Keep Salem Safe, Open, and Strong* campaign, as a safe place for customers to do business this fall. Employers interested in possibly having a mobile vaccination unit visit their place of business to vaccinate their workers can contact health@salem.com to arrange for a date.
- City boards and commissions are encouraged to **continue meeting remotely** until further notice and in no case resume in-person meetings until late November at the earliest.

The primary focus of the City over the next three months is on resuming high levels of mask usage and expanding vaccination uptake as extensively as possible, especially among front-line workers.

“Our top priority is ensuring the safety, health, well-being of our residents and in particular those who are not able to be vaccinated yet,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll. “The science is clear that masks help reduce transmission and vaccines help reduce the severity of illness. Together, they are a powerful barrier to the spread of COVID-19, including the Delta variant. We strongly urge all of our businesses to join the City and Salem Public Schools in helping to keep Salem safe by requiring their own employees be vaccinated or, if they are not vaccinated, to provide twice weekly negative COVID tests during the next few months. We’re prepared to provide masks, vaccines, and tests to help make this possible. This is going to have to be a team effort, so we can do our part to keep Salem safe, open, and strong.”



City of Salem COVID-19 Stats

Case and testing data to August 7, 2021.
Vaccination data to August 12, 2021.



www.salem.com/covid

Total Cases 4,889	Cases in Last 14 Days 58 ↑	Average New Daily Cases per 100,000 Residents in Last 14 Days 9.2 ↑
Total Tests 162,727	Tests in Last 14 Days 3,383 ↑	Percent Positivity in Last 14 Days 2.0% ↑
Total Vaccinations 30,718	Vaccines in Last 14 Days 641 ↑	Percent Vaccinated with at least One Dose 68.2%

BRIDGE STREET NECK

Zoning Forums

The City of Salem invites you to participate in a public forum regarding a Bridge Street Neck Overlay zone.

All are welcome to attend and participate.



Bridge Street Neck's unique character is changing. The zoning (what can be built, and the design) is tool that can be used to help shape future changes in a way that will reflect the vision the neighborhood.

The City is working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to draft an overlay zone to allow the kind of uses that are desired. **We need your input to make sure the zoning standards are consistent with what is desired for the neighborhood.**

PLEASE VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE FOR MEETING LOGIN DETAILS AND ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

PublicInput.com/BridgeStreetNeck

ZONING FORUM DATES

Both meetings are online at 6pm

Both forums will present the same content, so you only need to attend one to provide your input.

**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST, 18
AT 6PM**

AND

**THURSDAY
AUGUST, 26
AT 6PM**

The last day to register to vote in the September 14, 2021 municipal preliminary election is Wednesday, August 25th. Find out more about voting in Salem by clicking on the "Election Central" tab at www.salem.com.

Schools Update






Salem Public Schools remains committed to a safe and healthy reopening for all students, staff, and families in our district. We expect a full in-person return to school for all students (remote learning will only be an option for students who qualify for home and hospital care per Massachusetts Regulation). Salem Public Schools' approach for the upcoming opening of school utilizes a multi-layered strategy to reduce the risk of spread and to minimize disruption to learning for our students and their families summarized below.

In addition to the implementation strategies below, the COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective intervention to reduce the risk of both spread of and severe illness due to the virus. SPS is offering another free vaccination clinic on Saturday, August 28th from 11am-1pm at Saltonstall (211 Lafayette St.). In order to maximize health and safety, Salem Public Schools also recommends the following additional steps to protect our students, staff, and community this fall.

Required staff vaccination or biweekly COVID-19 testing: In March 2021, 92% of the staff that responded to our survey had already received their vaccine or had scheduled their appointment. In alignment with the City of Salem's *Keep Salem Safe, Open, & Strong* campaign, SPS is working with the Salem Teachers Union to require either (1) proof of vaccination or (2) biweekly (twice per week) COVID checks (formerly called surveillance testing). SPS school nurses will collect proof of vaccination during all staff PD week (week of August 24th) and SPS is able to offer free, on-site testing for staff.

Weekly COVID checks for high respiration extracurricular Activities for ages 12 and older: Extracurricular activities are an important part of the educational experience SPS is able to provide for our students, but many also increase the risk of spread during the pandemic. Beginning in winter 2021, SPS implemented a required weekly COVID check (formerly called surveillance testing) in order to participate in athletics. This fall, in order to participate in any high respiration extracurricular activities, including athletics, band, chorus, and drama, SPS plans to resume this practice of requiring once per week COVID checks for all extracurricular activities. SPS is able to offer free, on-site testing.

Required student vaccination or masks required outdoors and proof of consultation with your healthcare provider for high respiration extracurricular activities for ages 12 and older: The COVID-19 vaccine has now been approved for ages 12 and over since May, 2021. Currently, 55% of 12-15 year olds and only 43% of 16-19 year olds in the City of Salem have been vaccinated. This fall, in order to participate in any high respiration extracurricular activities, including athletics, band, chorus, and drama, SPS will require that students ages 12 and older have either (1) proof of vaccination **OR** (2) participants must wear masks even when outdoors and must show evidence of having consulted with their healthcare provider about receiving the vaccine. SPS will provide the required form to be signed by the healthcare provider documenting the consultation and will offer access to healthcare providers for students who need it. SPS will collect proof of vaccination prior to the start of the season or at the start of the school year.

Salem Public Schools Opening Plan Goal: Ensure the safe opening of schools in September and to minimize disruption to learning for our students and their families		
	1 Strong Health & Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regular hand washing/sanitizing and cleaningCommitment from all to stay home when symptomatic
	2 COVID -19 Surveillance Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Weekly testing to identify a-/pre-symptomatic cases & prevent spreadUse of on-site daily rapid tests for close contacts to minimize quarantines
	3 Supplemental Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of all HVAC systems to ensure proper operationsWindows open and robust deployment of HEPA filters
	4 Universal Mask Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce the introduction of small droplets & particles through masks for adults & students in school and on buses
	5 Meals & Mask Breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage meals to take place outdoors whenever possibleAt least 3 ft. of physical distance during indoor mask breaks or meals

Reminder!

First Day of School!

All schools except Carlton
August 31st
PreK-K: September 1st

Carlton Innovation School
September 2nd
K: September 3rd*

*Pending approval from the school committee