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# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

As part of the City's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are focusing a great deal on equitable and rapid distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, in accordance with the state's distribution plan and timetable.

Phase 2 of the state's vaccination program starts on February 1st and it begins with residents over the age of 75, as well as some other categories of residents. You can find more details at [www.mass.gov/vaccine](http://www.mass.gov/vaccine).

Information about who can get vaccinated when is changing quickly. To find the most up to date infor-

mation, including links to book an appointment if you are eligible to receive the vaccine, you can visit [www.salem.com/vaccine](http://www.salem.com/vaccine). Over 2,000 Salem residents have been vaccinated as of today and our weekly count of new vaccinations outpaces the weekly count of new COVID-19 cases.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective – and it's how we will finally be able to put this pandemic behind us. Please plan to get the vaccine as soon as you are eligible to receive it.

But we cannot rely on vaccination alone to help slow the spread of COVID-19. We are still seeing high case counts in excess of the numbers we experienced last Spring. It is now more important than ever that we continue to remain vigilant and follow those basic practices that have been proven to slow the spread of the virus and save lives:

- Wear a mask.
- Avoid gatherings.
- Keep 6' from others.

In addition to our efforts to protect lives, however, we are continuing our City's efforts to protect our resident's livelihoods. While close to 70% of those who lost their jobs at the outset of the pandemic have now returned to employment, we still have work to do to support our local businesses and employers. You can help by shopping locally. Read more inside about our new crowd-sourced "eat local" take-out restaurant map.

We're also continuing our efforts to support and assist our most vulnerable residents. You can still find a list of many community resources at [www.salem.com/together](http://www.salem.com/together). Read more in this newsletter, as well, about our new telehealth service for veterans.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community, your neighbors, and your own loved ones safe. And, as always, thank you for reading the FYI Salem newsletter!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

# Eat Locally Map

The City of Salem has launched an online map where diners can easily share their recommendations and favorite dishes at any Salem restaurant. Add your favorite spots for take-out using the form here: <https://arcg.is/109Tyu>.

Created by the City of Salem in conjunction with the Salem Economic Development Recovery and Revitalization (EDRR) Task Force, the intention of the online map is to remind diners of the many restaurant options that are available this winter.

"As we continue our efforts to support the vibrancy and success of our local businesses during this pandemic, we wanted to make it easy for folks to share their favorite take-out options at Salem's dozens of restaurants," said Mayor Kim Driscoll, who convened the Economic Recovery Task Force in the spring of 2020. "We've provided grants, technical assistance, equipment and labor to set up outdoor dining, and free PPE to our local business community, but word of mouth is one of the best ways to get new patrons, so we've created a new online tool to help generate that."

Diners can use the simple form at <https://arcg.is/109Tyu> to add their favorite restaurants to the map and highlight the dishes they recommend there. View the map and click on a spot to call up the restaurant's website, contact information, hours, and more. Residents are strongly encouraged to order take-out or delivery directly from the restaurant itself to help the business save on expensive third-party delivery fees and charges.

Mayor Driscoll convened the EDRR in March to determine the short- and long-term needs for Salem's business community and strategize revitalization efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

The map will be also be linked on the Destination Salem App for iPhone and Android and from [saalem.org/eat](http://saalem.org/eat). For more information or to add a restaurant by email, send an email to [info@saalem.org](mailto:info@saalem.org) with "Restaurant Map" in the subject line.



The latest COVID response information from the City of Salem can be found at [www.salem.com/covid](http://www.salem.com/covid).

Case data, public health guidance and advisories, links to resources, and much more.



**Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)  
Information**

**City of Salem**  
[saalem.com/covid](http://saalem.com/covid)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Greenlawn Master Plan

The City of Salem is in the process of developing a master plan to guide future improvements, expansion, and long-term management of its largest place of interment, the 55-acre historic Greenlawn Cemetery. Find out more about Greenlawn Cemetery and the City's efforts to preserve this important public space by visiting the Preserving Salem website at [www.preservingsalem.com/greenlawn-cemetery-master-plan](http://www.preservingsalem.com/greenlawn-cemetery-master-plan).



Dating to 1807, Greenlawn was enlarged in the mid-19th century and laid out in the Rural or Garden Cemetery style. The property recently was added to the National Register of Historic Places and received accreditation as a Level 1 Arboretum, the first publicly owned cemetery in Massachusetts to earn this designation. Through the master planning process, the City hopes to protect and enhance the character and quality of Greenlawn's historic landscape.

Monday, February 1st, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Via Zoom ([www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)): Meeting I.D. # **81084864274** Passcode: # **225213**



## Telehealth for Veterans

As we all struggle and adapt to the recent pandemic challenges, the Veterans Administration has been promoting the use of remote technologies throughout the pandemic. Telehealth services is an efficient and effective way for veterans to stay connected with their primary care doctors and support groups. The VA's telehealth technologies offer secure, mobile, and enhanced access to VA care. This also keeps travel to and from VA appointments at a minimum and limiting a veteran's exposure risk.

If any Salem veteran is unable to connect remotely using their own phones or computers, the Salem Veterans Service offices can bring this technology to the veteran. New, specially networked iPads are readily available and user-friendly. Please contact the Salem Veteran Service office at 978-745-0883 to take advantage of this easy to use technology.

### COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: All Phase 1 Groups Eligible

- 1 COVID-facing healthcare workers Eligible Group
- 2 Long term care facilities (LTCF) Eligible Group
- 3 First responders (EMS, Fire, Police) Eligible Group
- 4 Congregate care settings (inc. corrections & shelters) Eligible Group
- 5 Home-based healthcare workers Eligible Group
- 6 Non-COVID-facing healthcare workers Eligible Group

For more details on each group and phase visit [mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://mass.gov/COVIDvaccine)



@massgov



# School Updates

## School Staff Vaccinations

Salem Public Schools superintendent Dr. Steve Zrike, in partnership with Salem Teachers Union 1258 has led a North Shore wide effort to advocate for our teachers to be moved to phase one of the vaccine rollout. Currently K-12 staff members are in phase two even as state leaders advocate to bring more students back to school in person.

The North Shore Superintendents Roundtable, a group of 29 School district administrators, along with their teacher union partners, sent a letter to Governor Baker to voice their advocacy. We are proud to make our voices heard in support of our Salem Public Schools staff.

Dr. Zrike states ""Superintendents and union leaders are advocating for our educators to be considered essential workers such that they receive the vaccine in Phase 1 of distribution. We are committed to in-person learning and believe that accelerating access to the vaccine for educators will help us to keep schools open and bring more students back to school".

## COVID-19 Webinar

This past Wednesday, Salem Public Schools presented a webinar update on the COVID-19 response in our community. Superintendent Zrike led the program as we provided updates and information to our community. We'd like to thank Dr. Clovene Campbell, Pediatrician at Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem, Amy Courtney, MPH, RN, CIC, Director of Infection Prevention and Patient Safety at North Shore Medical Center, and Dr. David J. Roberts, President of North Shore Medical Center for joining us and offering their expertise and medical advice to our staff and families. Their partnership has been so valuable to us during this health crisis. Did you miss the webinar? [You can view the recording here.](#)

## Kindergarten Expo

Thank you to those of us who joined us for the Kindergarten Expo! We are excited to bring our youngest learners into our schools! If you missed the Expo, you can view a recording of it here: <http://bit.ly/Kexpowebinar>. Next week: Virtual booths so families can explore each school and ask questions. [See event info here.](#)

Kindergarten registration forms are now available and you can find them, along with information about each school and the registration process on the kindergarten one-stop web page. This site has information about our kindergarten programs, our schools, afterschool partners, and additional resources.

