



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

One year ago today we received confirmation of the first three cases of COVID-19 in Salem. Since that day more than 4,200 of our neighbors have become sick from the virus and, sadly, 78 of them have died from it.

As a community, we should be proud of how Salem pulled together over the last 12 months of this crisis. From food and housing assistance, to emergency public health measures; from volunteer community outreach, to business recovery efforts; from innovative testing in our neighborhoods and our schools, to pursuing greater vaccine access, our city has consistently risen to the challenges that this pandemic brought to our door.

Today, one year in, hope is on the horizon. More than half of Salem residents who lost their jobs because of the pandemic are now back to work. One in four Salem residents have received the COVID vaccine and, thankfully, those numbers are increasing daily.

We aren't going to let up now.

And we aren't going to forget the lives lost.

78 of our neighbors were stolen from us by COVID. On April 4th—the anniversary of the first of those deaths—we invite all Salem residents who may know or lost someone to this virus, to join us in placing a light in a window of their house where everyone can see it. At City Hall, we'll have one light in our front windows for each person that our community lost. Later this spring we'll announce details about a more permanent memorial plan that will celebrate the memory of those taken from us by COVID.

Early in the pandemic, when we launched the Salem Together volunteer initiative, I said that Salem—as it has throughout its history—was united in the face of adversity. We support and care for each other always.

This may have been a year without precedent, but it's not been a year without hope.

Volunteers delivering meals to homebound seniors and the sick. Church and neighborhood groups making masks for those who need them. Local institutions offering temporary housing and quarantine space. Residents volunteering to make thousands of well-being calls to Salem seniors. Small business owners pivoting and supporting their employees. City and school staff going above and beyond their normal jobs to help those in need. Medical retirees and students volunteering for testing and vaccine clinics.

It has not been easy, but we have not been alone on this journey.

We can look back on this past year with sorrow—and certainly a measure of exhaustion—but not without pride, too. Pride in how we came together, lifted each other up, and always, *always*, cared for one another.

We'll get all the way through this Salem, together.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Spring Street Sweeping

Find the 2021 sweeping schedule online now at www.salem.com/streetsweeping.

Spring street sweeping will take place on entrance corridors March 23-April 1. Entrance corridors will be swept six times from March through October. Each entrance corridor will be swept over a period of two consecutive days alternating between the odd and even side of the street. Parking will be prohibited 5am-7am on sweeping days. City workers will utilize blowers to clear corridor sidewalks of debris prior to the first entrance corridor sweep.



DPS will blow and sweep sidewalks and streets downtown beginning on Wednesday, March 24 and then on every third Wednesday of the month from April through September. Blowing will begin at 9pm followed by street sweeping 11pm-3am. Please remove vehicles from posted downtown streets on those days so they will not be towed. Downtown residents on posted streets may park free of charge at the Museum Place Garage on sweeping days from 8pm Wednesday evening to 8am Thursday morning, with proof of residency.

Neighborhood street sweeping will be April 5-30 and takes place on both sides of the street on the same day from 7am-3pm, during which parking is prohibited. Street sweeping schedules can be found at www.salem.com/streetsweeping.

There will be additional street sweeping on streets in the Point neighborhood on March 22 and then twice monthly from April through September. Parking will be prohibited 7am-3pm on sweeping days. Residents on the posted streets may park free of charge in the South Harbor Parking Garage on sweeping days from 8pm Sunday to 8pm Monday, with proof of residency.

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Eligibility Status

Phase 1

All phase 1 priority groups

Now eligible

Phase 2

1 Individuals age 75+

Now eligible

2 Individuals age 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions

Now eligible

3 K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and child care workers

Now eligible

4 Individuals age 60+ and workers in certain sectors (including transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers)

Eligible 3/22

5 Individuals age 55+ and individuals with 1 certain medical condition

Eligible 4/5

Phase 3

1 General Public

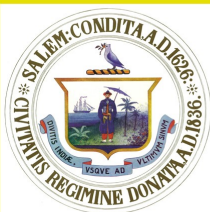
Eligible 4/19

Important vaccination information can be found at www.salem.com/vaccine.

Links to make an appointment, transportation assistance, eligibility information, and much more.

The latest COVID response information from the City of Salem can be found at www.salem.com/covid.

Note: Free COVID testing has been extended to June 30th. Read more at www.salem.com/stopthespread.



Coronavirus
(COVID-19)
Information

City of Salem
salem.com/covid



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Economic Recovery Grant

The City of Salem has secured a \$662,922 federal Economic Development Administration grant to help with economic recovery from the pandemic. The City will use the grant to fund technical assistance for small businesses, create a community marketing campaign, host safe programming, and build an economic diversification strategy.



"This investment will be key to helping many of our existing small businesses, especially in our hard-hit tourism and hospitality sectors," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "It also provides funds to assist us in strategies to continue growing the diversity of our local economy. This major grant award will create hundreds of new jobs, attract private capital, and advance greater economic resiliency and recovery for our community. This EDA investment will not only provide short-term help to our local and regional economy, but also longer-term assistance for our ongoing post-pandemic recovery."

The Economic Development Administration estimates the federal investment will create 374 new jobs in the greater Salem area, attract private investment to Salem, and make the region more economically resilient.



Highland Avenue Study

The City is now pleased to share the Draft Highland Avenue Corridor Study for public comment at www.salem.com/home/news/request-comments-draft-highland-avenue-corridor-study. The study summarizes opportunities for future growth that have been identified through a collaborative planning process underpinned by a market analysis of existing and potential land uses.

The public comment period is open through March 26, 2021. Written comments may be emailed to achiancola@salem.com or sent to the Department of Planning and Community Development, 98 Washington Street, Salem, MA 01970.

Yard Waste & E-Waste

Salem residents with proof of residency or property ownership will be able to drop off their yard waste at the Salem Transfer Station on Swampscott Road on Saturday March 20 7am-3pm and Sunday March 21 9am-5pm. The station will then open fully for the season on April 17th. Yard waste should be dropped off in a paper yard waste bag or dumped loose at the designated area on the site.

Yard waste in plastic bags will not be accepted and stumps and branches greater than 2" in diameter will also not be accepted. Residential trash and construction and demolition debris is not accepted at the Transfer Station. The next curbside yard waste collection will take place as scheduled, the week of April 19th.

The next Electronics Waste Collection is March 27 8am-noon at Salem State University's O'Keefe Center parking lot, 225 Canal Street. Salem residents can bring anything with a plug and most items are free to dispose of, except for TVs, monitors, Freon appliances, and exercise equipment which have a \$20 fee. Stay in your vehicle and have items ready to unload in your trunk, truck bed, or hatchback; items will not be unloaded from car seats. Wear a face covering and have your cash or check (payable to RMG Enterprise) ready.

No commercial drop-offs or white goods, including washers, dryers, and stoves, will be accepted. Electronics containing mercury, along with CFL bulbs, can be brought to DPS, 5 Jefferson Ave, during City business hours.



School Updates

Salem Public Schools excited to **return our K-8 students to five full days of in-person learning effective Monday, April 5th for all families who select in-person learning.** Students who choose to learn in-person will have at least a six hour and five minute a day in-person school day; school specific schedules will be released by the end of the week to families and PreK families will receive separate information from the Early Childhood Center. Please note that Salem High School will continue with their current hybrid and remote schedule until a plan is finalized to offer a five-day a week in-person model by the end of April. **Salem Public Schools will continue to provide remote learning for interested students and families through the end of the school year and will no longer offer a hybrid model at grades K-8 beginning April 5th.**

In order to provide these learning opportunities to our students, Salem Public Schools remains committed to the robust health and safety practices we have implemented all year, and will also continue to incorporate lessons from the evolving science as we learn more about this virus:

- Requiring universal mask wearing for students and adults
- Regular hand washing and disinfecting of physical spaces
- Robust contact tracing and keeping symptomatic individuals home
- Student and staff COVID testing to identify asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic cases

Upgrades to ventilation systems and supplemental HEPA filters in classrooms

Over the past nine weeks, Salem has seen declining case rates and positivity rates. In addition, [new research](#) on over 500,000 students and nearly 100,000 educators in Massachusetts has also confirmed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's guidance that, when wearing masks, three feet of physical distance is sufficient. This affirms our own local public health advisory group that emphasizes the benefits of consistent, in-person learning as long as we adhere to the protocols that have been established across our schools. All of this work would not be possible without the inspiring dedication of all of the SPS educators and staff, who are also finally all eligible for the vaccine!

This leads SPS to adhere to the commitment to meet and exceed the state's new requirement. In doing so, SPS will continue to encourage six feet of physical distance whenever possible (which will be the case in the majority of our elementary classes) and require six feet for meals and mask breaks. We look forward to using outside spaces whenever possible. Salem Public Schools is excited that as part of the new schedule, they will be able to consistently offer students in-person Specialist classes such as art, music, and PE.

Salem Public Schools looks forward to continuing to bring more students back to in-person learning.

