



FYI SALEM

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 8

APRIL 30, 2021

CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:

Phone:

(978) 619-5600

Fax:

(978) 744-9327

Email:

mayor@salem.com

Web:

salem.com/mayor

Facebook:

Kim Driscoll

Twitter:

@MayorDriscoll



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Regional Vaccine Clinic	2
Vaccine Update	2
Charter Street Cemetery	3
Arbor Day	3
July 4th Update	3
School Updates	4

From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

As of yesterday, April 29th, 21,514 Salem residents have received at least one shot of the COVID-19 vaccine. While we've made remarkable progress in just a few short months, we know there is still more work to do.

We're encouraged by the positive trends in the public health data and the increasing numbers of vaccinated residents.

Nevertheless as a community that has a large visitor population we want to be extremely cautious and thoughtful in our approach to reopening.

Over the next several days our own local experts and Board of Health members will be reviewing the state's recently announced reopening proce-

dures and evaluating which, if any, of our own local health orders may be modified as a result.

We continue to encourage visitors to Salem to follow all posted guidance, to wear masks and practice social distancing, and to be respectful of our local businesses and their employees. And, as always, we also encourage all residents to get the COVID vaccine as soon as possible. The more of us who are vaccinated, the faster we'll all be able to get back to normal.

North Shore Community Health recently held a mobile clinic at the Salem Academy Charter School and the City's mobile vaccination program for homebound residents is nearly complete.

We also recently received the good news that the state has finally approved our regional vaccine clinic, proposed for Salem State University's O'Keefe Center. Once that site opens, which we expect to happen in early May, thousands of additional vaccination appointments will become available to our residents.

In addition to all these options, the federal pharmacy vaccination sites continue to grow in number and available appointments. Where it had been difficult and frustrating to book a vaccine appointment just a couple of months ago, today it's growing easier every day. You can find links to all the vaccination sites in our area online at www.salem.com/vaccine.

And, if you're hesitant or reluctant to get the COVID vaccine, please know that it has been tested by thousands and taken by millions. Until enough of us have the vaccine, we won't be able to get back to all activities we used to enjoy and we won't be able to safely see our friends, family, and loved ones.

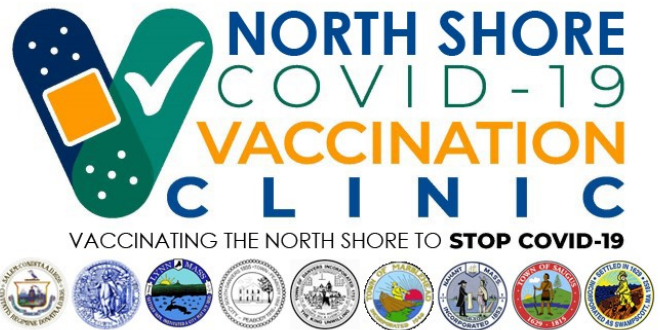
It's on us to put this pandemic behind us. Please—get the vaccine, any one of the authorized vaccines, as soon as you are able. And then, continue to wear your mask, practice safe distancing, and be respectful of one another.

Thank you, and be well.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor, City of Salem

Regional Vaccine Clinic

The City of Salem, in partnership with the Cities of Beverly, Lynn, and Peabody and the Towns of Danvers, Marblehead, Nahant, Saugus, and Swampscott, have been notified by the Commonwealth that their application to host a regional COVID-19 vaccination clinic site at Salem State University's O'Keefe Center has been approved.



Where: Salem State University O'Keefe Center, 225 Canal Street, Salem

When: Dates and times are TBA and will be posted at www.salem.com/vaccine.

Who is eligible: Clinic is open to all Massachusetts residents over the age of 16.

How to get an appointment? To book an appointment at this site click the "North Shore Regional Vaccination Clinic" link at www.salem.com/vaccine **once it is listed on that page**. Appointments will be subject to the availability of vaccine doses, which are provided by the state.

"As we work to expand access and equity in vaccine distribution, this regional clinic site will help to better serve the tens of thousands of North Shore residents who are in need of and seeking this critical vaccine," said Mayor Driscoll. "We are stronger and safer as a region when we work to ensure the public health of all our residents. By providing access to the COVID vaccine, free of charge and to anyone – whether or not they have health insurance and regardless of immigration status – we can move closer to the day when the pandemic is finally over."

Get the **COVID-19** vaccine now — for **FREE!**



Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting the vaccine.
It's easy and it's **FREE** for all Salem residents over the age of 16.

Dear Salem resident,

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available for free to all Salem residents over the age of 16.

You must make an appointment to get the vaccine. You can pre-register for an appointment at a Mass Vax site or book a specific appointment time at a regional clinic, pharmacy, or through some healthcare providers. Find more information about all these options at www.salem.com/vaccine. You don't need to show proof of citizenship to get the vaccine. While health insurance isn't required either, if you do have it you may be asked to provide your health insurance information when you get your vaccine.

The availability of vaccinations provides an opportunity for hope and a return to normalcy, hopefully soon — but only if enough of us get the vaccine. The resilience and compassion of Salem residents have carried us through many challenging months to this point, and I'm optimistic that same spirit and dedication will see us through the pivotal next few weeks.

Know that your City is here for you, doing all that we can to help bring this awful pandemic to an end.

Kimberly Driscoll

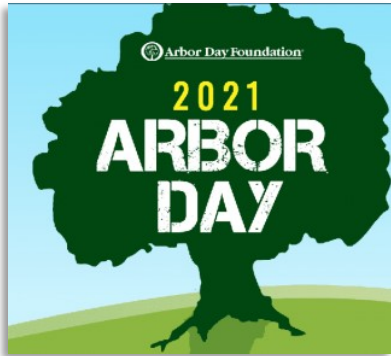
Kim Driscoll, Mayor



» Schedule an appointment at www.salem.com/vaccine

Charter Street Cemetery

The City of Salem Cemetery Commission has decided to delay the official reopening of Charter Street Cemetery pending full completion of improvement project currently underway. The Commission will revisit the reopening date at their next meeting on May 19, 2021.



Arbor Day

Salem will celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 30 at the Bates School where third graders will assist Tree Warden Bob LeBlanc and Mayor Kim Driscoll in planting an *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' on the school grounds. As part of the event, students will learn about the benefits of trees and will be given spruce seedlings to plant either at home or at Forest River Park with the guidance of the Tree Warden.

Arbor Day, which is part of the Tree City USA program, is celebrated in 3,400 communities across the USA. For the past fifteen years, Salem has been recognized by this program for its commitment to planting and nurturing trees.

"I am so proud of our tradition of planting trees and reaching out to students on Arbor Day," said Mayor Driscoll.

"Trees not only improve the quality of life in our City, they also provide important environmental benefits. It's gratifying that we're able to pass on to future generations an appreciation for this vital natural resource."

If you would like to have a tree planted on your property or to donate to the Salem Tree Fund, visit www.salem.com/tree-commission.

July 4th Update

Based on the state's recently announced restrictions on the number of people who can gather outdoors and after discussions with the National Park Service – which hosts Salem's annual July 4th celebration at Derby Wharf – the City of Salem has announced that the traditional July 4th celebration of fireworks and a large concert will not take place this summer. On July 4th the state's limitations on outdoor gathering sizes will be 250 individuals, far below the many thousands who normally attend Salem's Independence Day celebration. Instead, this year a special celebratory fireworks display is tentatively planned for Heritage Days in August.

"We continue to do all that we can to keep our community safe for everyone," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Unfortunately, even with the improving public health metrics, we will not be in a place where the City or the National Park Service believes we will be able to safely gather on Derby Wharf in July. It's far too important that we continue to slow the spread of COVID. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to our historic waterfront to celebrate on July 4, 2022."

The City invites residents to celebrate America's independence on July 4th this year by hanging an American flag from their porch or house, decorating their home or business, and sharing images of their personal celebration of the day by posting to social media with the hashtag #SalemCelebratesJuly4th. As a reminder, the use of fireworks is illegal in Salem and, around July 4th, fines are increased for illegal fireworks. Avoid the risk of serious injury to yourself or your loved ones, and the risk of significant fines. Do not detonate fireworks in Salem.



School Updates

Public Budget Hearing

On Monday, May 5th at 6:00pm prior to the School Committee meeting, there will be a public hearing on the budget. You can find the full budget proposal on our website https://www.salemk12.org/our_district/what_s_new/f_y22_proposed_budget and the full information about the public hearing can be found here <https://www.salem.com/school-committee/agenda/salem-public-schools-fy22-budget-hearing>. Please join us and let us know your thoughts on the 2021-2022 budget.

Staff Appreciation Week

Did you know that next week is School Staff Appreciation Week? Here's how you can join us in celebrating our phenomenal staff! Salem Public Schools is collecting stories, appreciations and reflections to honor our staff. Please take a few minutes and share a story or two about an SPS staff member who has made a difference in your life or in the life of one of our students. We will select a few stories to post on social media as a way to publicly celebrate the work and impact we have on our students. To submit, please fill out the form here. <https://forms.gle/1ueLFRzMkN7kiFQc7>

MSFEC Affinity Group Listening Sessions

The Massachusetts Family Engagement State Coalition, in partnership with the Statewide Family Engagement Center (MSFEC), will be host listening sessions with various Affinity groups and our Regional Family Engagement members in the first weeks of May. These listening sessions will provide families, practitioners, community organizations and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to share their current experiences related to COVID-19 and racial equity to inform plans related to family engagement. This is a great opportunity to listening to our families and community leaders their experiences during pre-pandemic/ the pandemic and post-pandemic.

Affinity Groups - The affinity group listening sessions will be offered on various dates in May. The groups will include:

- Communities of Color and Cultural Organizations
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Queer (LGBTQ) and Youth
- Families of Children with Disabilities (English)
- Listening Sessions in Different Languages (Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese and Somali)

Please check the affinity group registration link to select which affinity group and time you plan to attend. The listening sessions for regional family engagement coalition members takes place Thursday, May 6 (9-10 or 3-4) and May 11th (3-4). Check the regional coalition registration link to select which listening session you would like to attend.

