



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Just weeks ago, the world witnessed an unprovoked and repugnant act of aggression by the Russian government towards the free and sovereign nation of Ukraine.

Nations, communities, and individuals across the globe have rightly condemned this illegal war and Salem is proud to join with them in doing the same.

We are heartbroken by the violence being visited upon the people of Ukraine and we denounce it loudly and firmly. The people of Salem stand with our friends in Ukraine, and we hold them in our hearts as their nation suffers this atrocious invasion.

To our Ukrainian neighbors here in Salem and throughout Massachusetts, we extend a supporting hand of friendship and of solidarity in these troubled times.

This past weekend hundreds of Salem residents turned out for a vigil at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic church here in Salem. They joined with members of the congregation is expressing their shared hope for peace and for compassion for those who are suffering during this senseless war.

If you would like to make a financial donation to support Ukrainian relief efforts, you can do so online through the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee: www.uuarc.org.

We can also take this moment to recommit ourselves to being a community, a commonwealth, a country – and, yes, a planet – that places a true value on the rights of every person, and on the preservation of democracy and pluralism at home and abroad. Because when democracy is crushed beneath the boot of authoritarianism, human rights are

crushed as well.

As a city, Salem has our own unignorable history with the dangers that follow when a society discards, diminishes, and devalues those perceived to be “other.” But we’ve changed and grown from that past, using the lessons and legacy of 1692 to inform and inspire us to a better present – and to a more hopeful future, one where the rule of law and equal justice prevail, where every culture and race and belief system are respected – not persecuted, and where the life of every person is valued.

We can each be a leader in achieving that future, in every interaction with one another, in how we teach and raise the next generation, and in how we treat those among us who are suffering, excluded, or oppressed.

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read the FYI Salem newsletter.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
Salem

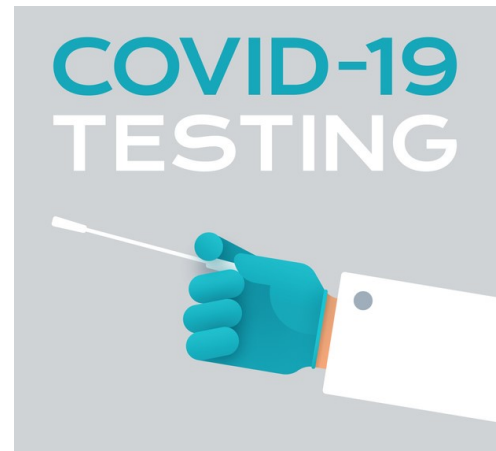
Change to COVID Testing

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will close the two "Stop the Spread" PCR COVID-19 testing sites in Salem – at St. Peter's Church and at Salem High School – on March 31, 2022. March 31st will be the last day of testing at both sites.

The Curative testing site, located in Riley Plaza, will remain through at least June 30, 2022. Free walk-up PCR testing is available to all residents at this location Mondays-Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You must pre-register for an appointment time and may do so at <https://curative.com/sites/33988>.

The City of Salem is providing an additional distribution of free rapid antigen COVID-19 tests for at-home use. Any Salem resident or individual who works in Salem is eligible to pick up three boxes of tests (two tests per box) from the Health Department offices, 98 Washington Street 3rd floor, Mondays-Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. between March 7th and the end of March, or as long as supplies last.

Lastly, the City of Salem – in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Biobot, and the South Essex Sewerage District – continues to conduct surveillance testing for COVID-19 in the community's wastewater. Testing is conducted every other day and the resulting data are published at www.salem.com/covid.



Repair Café

Don't throw away your broken item – bring it to the Repair Café! SalemRecycles will be hosting a Repair Café on Saturday March 12th from 9am-12 noon at the Community Life Center at 401 Bridge Street. Appointments are required and walk ins will not be accepted. Schedule an appointment by contacting Micaela Guglielmi at mguglielmi@salem.com or 978-619-5672. Volunteers will be available to mend clothing, sew buttons, sharpen scissors and knives, tinker

with or rewire electronics and lamps, computer diagnostics, glue wooden furniture and ceramics, and more. These services may change as we confirm volunteers.

March 3rd-April 7th

Thursdays @ 9:30am with Miss Simone
or @ 10:30am with Ms Suzie

Preschool Storytime

FOR KIDS AGE 18 MO. - 5 YEARS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS!

register weekly at salempl.org/calendar

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City of Salem Weekly COVID-19 Stats			
<small>Case and testing data as of February 26, 2022, except Active Cases, which is as of March 3. Hospitalization as of March 2. Vaccine data as of March 1. SPS data as of February 10.</small>			
Total Cases 10,655	Current Active Cases 45 ↓	New Cases in Last 14 Days 84 ↓	14 Day Average New Case Rate 13.3 ↓
Salem Hospital COVID+ 1 ICU ↔ 12 Med/Surg ↑	7 Day Average Regional ICU Occupancy 86.9% ↓	Regional Hospital Capacity 7.7% ↑	Regional Hospital Beds Open 15 ICU ↑ 65 Med/Surg ↑
Total PCR Tests 259,049	PCR Tests in Last 14 Days 4,792 ↓	PCR Percent Positivity in Last 14 Days 2.30% ↓	New SPS Cases in Last Week 27 Students ↓ 5 Staff ↑
Total Fully Vaccinated 32,395	New Fully Vaxed in Last 14 Days 216 ↓	% All Residents Fully Vaccinated 72.0%	% Eligible Residents Fully Vaccinated 76.2%
www.salem.com/covid			

Call for Creatives

The City of Salem is excited to announce two new calls for artists and performers!

CultureHouse Salem – CultureHouse Salem seeks North Shore based performers, artist, creatives, non-profit organizations, and businesses to participate in collaborative programming for the months of April, May and June 2022 at our pop-up community space hosted at Old Town Hall. Slight preference will be given to Salem-based entities. CultureHouse is partnering with the city to conduct an in depth community impact study around the activation of Old Town Hall as a year around Art & Culture destination to enliven and invigorate this historic community icon through direct support to local creatives by show casing their works. Submit your proposal/idea (https://www.salem.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif3756/f/uploads/culturehouse_salem_call_for_artists_and_collaborators.pdf) for how you could see your creative works as part of this exciting program and help inform the future of Old Town Hall. Applications will be accepted and reviewed throughout the 3 month program. Artists' stipends offered. Para la versión en español haga clic aquí: https://www.salem.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif3756/f/uploads/culturehouse_salem_convocatoria_para_artistas_y_colaboradores.pdf.



2021 People's Choice Award Winner,
Zhonghe (Elena) Li, at work on her mural
entitled "Being one with Earth"

Salem Arts Festival Mural Slam - The Salem Public Art Commission and Salem Arts Festival are teaming up to present the 7th annual Salem Arts Festival Mural Slam. This dynamic live painting event engages the public with creative producers and contributes to downtown Salem's cultural vitality. This City seeks 12 artists to showcase their talents and contribute to keeping Artists' Row and downtown Salem a destination for world-class, inspiring, and engaging public art. Artist stipends offered. Submit your mural idea today! (<https://www.salem.com/public-art-commission/pages/call-artists-salem-art-festival-mural-slam>) Application deadline is March 31, 2022 at 11:59pm.

For more information about these opportunities, to learn how to apply, and find future calls please check out and bookmark our new Calls for Artists page: www.salem.com/arts-culture/pages/calls-art-artist-and-creatives

Free Dance Classes



Infuse Dance Studio, in partnership with the City of Salem, is thrilled to announce its new line up for FREE adult dance classes at Old Town Hall.

Dances of all levels welcome. All classes are 18 and over. Pop into open house and try them all for free. Each open house event will feature a different rotation of teachers and classes.

All open houses are taking place in Salem's Old Town Hall, 32 Derby Square, Salem MA, in the Great Hall. This series will run on the fourth Saturday of the month February through May.

Registration not required but encouraged, you can RSVP here: <http://www.infusesalem.com/>

School Updates

Unified Sports

This winter, Salem High School launched our Unified Sports program. It has been an incredible way to help foster a more inclusive environment at SHS by bringing together students with and without disabilities as both competitors and teammates, with an eye on breaking down social walls, developing friendships, and furthering inclusion in the school community.

In this inaugural strength and conditioning season, we've had 46 students and 12 staff members compete together in various exercises. The energy and joy have been amazing!

Moving forward, we're excited to host three seasons during the school year: basketball in the fall, strength and conditioning in the winter, and track and field in the spring.

This was the final week for our Unified Sports program. We are proud of what these athletes have accomplished over the last 6 weeks and what they will accomplish in future seasons.

Act of Kindness

Acts of kindness can turn around someone's day and our WHES students showed them all how to do it. Mr. Collins' 4th and 5th grade civics class is learning about community building, caring for others and performing random acts of #kindness with the hope that others will pay it forward.



Last Day of School

With our two snow days and our one wellness day, the last day of school is currently Friday, June 17th (June 15th for our Pre-K and Kindergarten students). For Carlton Innovation School the last day will be June 23rd (June 17th for Kindergarten families) given that June 20th is a holiday for Juneteenth).

Please know that this is subject to change depending on the weather over the coming months.