

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



# UPDATE from the City Manager for Wednesday, June 17, 2020

**Governor Sununu's "Stay At Home" order has expired, replaced by "Safer At Home." For the full details on the Governor's Executive Orders, click here: <http://www.nh.gov/covid19>**

**PORTSMOUTH PLAYGROUND NOW OPEN. OUTDOOR POOL MAY OPEN JULY 6** – The Health Department and Recreation Department have reopened playgrounds, based on the Governor's guidelines and instructions for sanitizing and appropriate physical distancing. At the City Council meeting on June 15, **the Health Officer suggested it might be possible to open the Peirce Island Outdoor Pool on July 6, if the City Council restores the funding for its operation that is included in the FY21 budget.** That budget will be discussed at a special City Council meeting on Monday, June 22. The pool might open to Portsmouth residents only, starting with a maximum of 50 people at any one time and several infection control provisions/safety considerations in place. Details to come.

**SBA REOPENS DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM TO ALL BUSINESSES** -- To further meet the needs of U.S. small businesses and non-profits, the U.S. Small Business Administration reopened the **[Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) and EIDL Advance program portal](#)** to all eligible applicants experiencing economic impacts due to COVID-19 yesterday. SBA's EIDL program offers long-term, low interest assistance for a small business or non-profit. These loans can provide vital economic support to help alleviate temporary loss of revenue. EIDL assistance can be used to cover payroll and inventory, pay debt or fund other expenses. Additionally, the EIDL Advance will provide up to \$10,000 (\$1,000 per employee) of emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties, and these emergency grants do not have to be repaid.

**CLIPPER STRONG FUND COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES FIRST INITIATIVE** -- The Clipper Strong Fund has decided to help supply Portsmouth businesses with a critical reopening need as their first initiative. The Committee is pleased to announce the creation of a **Clipper Strong Care Package** that includes items that are difficult for individuals to source at reasonable prices: a supply of facemasks, a touch-free thermometer and signage with the CDC health safety guidance. The initial distribution is being planned to meet demand during this round on a first-come, first-served basis. **Portsmouth businesses should email [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com) to request a Clipper Strong Care Package and include their locations.** As donations grow, the committee plans to develop additional direct-aid programs. The Clipper Strong Fund launched with donations from Mayor Becksted and from the Granite State Development Corporation and Eastern Bank Foundation. Piscataqua Savings Bank has also joined the effort with a \$5000 donation. For more information on the Clipper Strong Fund, click here. **<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/clipper-strong-fund> Click here to make a Clipper Strong Fund tax deductible donation to support Portsmouth's small businesses.** Donations by check may be mailed to the Clipper Strong Fund c/o Coastal Economic Development Corporation, 4 Merrill Industrial Drive, Suite 201, Hampton NH 03842. **<https://www.clipperstrong.org>**

**CITIZEN RESPONSE TASK FORCE & CITY ADVANCING GUIDELINES FOR USE OF DOWNTOWN STREETS AND FOUNDRY PLACE GARAGE ROOFTOP** – The Task Force and subgroups working on the two different areas are meeting almost daily with City staff including DPW, Planning, Health, Fire, Police, Inspections and the City Manager to facilitate functional plans. **DOWNTOWN BUSINESS OWNERS** who would like to participate in the planning, please send an email with your contact information to **[hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com)**  
**The Downtown Streets sub-group plans to meet by Zoom on Thursday, June 18 at 2 pm.**

- **Public Realm Spaces for Restaurants** – Concepts for use of public spaces are being advanced in conjunction with Fire, Police, Building, Planning and DP. Public realm requests will be received through

City's Viewpermit system (Sidewalk Café Application), pending additional Task Force decision-making. Restaurants and retail can go ahead and submit, approvals to follow. The use of these spaces is subject to City area service agreement insurance details and Health Department requirements for physical distancing. <https://portsmouthnh.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1082/record-types/6431>

- **FOUNDRY PLACE GARAGE Space**– The Foundry Place Garage task force sub-group chair Russ Grazier, with Kathleen Cavalaro's nonprofit arts and culture group PopupRooftop.com <http://www.Popuprooftop.com> is working out practical and logistical details. **The group plus Councilor Cliff Lazenby plans to meet with the surrounding neighborhoods, on the top floor of Foundry Place garage on Thursday, June 18 at 6 pm.** Another meeting via Zoom will continue the conversation with the neighborhoods.
- **For more information, visit the Citizen Response Task Force web page**, that provides the materials and resources the committee is using. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/citizen-response-task-force> All meetings are conducted publicly via zoom and are posted in advance on the City website homepage. To contact the Citizen Response Task Force, email via [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com)

**BUSINESSES! CITY MANAGER NEEDS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!** With so many fast-moving projects, the City is updating its list of business contact emails to keep you informed. Please send the name of your business and contact name and email to [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com) Put "Business Contact" in the subject line. Thanks!

**PERMIT GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR DINING AND INDOOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING**  
**For the page detailing all the Health Department guidance on Outdoor and Indoor dining:**  
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/health/portsmouth-health-department-guidelines-related-indoor-and-outdoor-dining-during-covid-19>

**Outdoor Dining** -- When the Governor announced guidelines for the opening of outdoor dining starting May 18, a City Department Work Group identified three subgroups of restaurants and streamlined the permitting process:

- **Restaurants already permitted for outdoor dining** should submit their outdoor seating arrangements and compliance with the new public health guidelines checklist to the Health Department.
- **Restaurants seeking to offer outdoor dining on private property not already permitted** must receive a Building Permit from the Building Inspection. This one permit incorporates both Fire and Health Department review, the checklist and outdoor seating arrangement plan. For the Viewpoint portal: <https://portsmouthnh.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1071/record-types/6408>

**Restaurants already holding a liquor license** need only advise the Liquor Commission, via email to [reopen@liquor.nh.gov](mailto:reopen@liquor.nh.gov), that they will be applying that license to their outdoor extensions. For FAQs and additional information, go to: <https://www.nh.gov/liquor/enforcement/industry/documents/industry-circular-reopen-outside-area-2020-08.pdf>

**Indoor Dining** -- With the [Governor's order](#) allowing, starting June 15, 2020, restaurants to offer indoor dining at 50% occupancy in Rockingham County (and appropriate 6-foot physical distancing), the following process is now in place: <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/files/inline-documents/guidance-restaurants.pdf>

Table spacing (both indoors and outdoors) should be maintained so people sitting at adjacent tables are more than six feet apart and servers should be able to maintain social distancing while interacting with tables. Seating guidelines showing different table styles and arrangements are posted in the Health Department web page, [here](#). To streamline the process, prior to re-opening, all establishments must submit a completed re-opening Checklist and adjusted seating floor plans for approval, electronically via [Viewpoint](#). (Select Covid-19 Reduced Indoor Seating Approval from the Health Department page on Viewpoint.) Seating plans are being approved daily. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-06/Covid-19%20Table%20Diagram%20Exemplars%20version%204.pdf>

**UPDATED LIST OF OUTDOOR DINING, TAKEOUT AND RESTAURANTS PERMITTED FOR INDOOR DINING** – For the list of restaurants offering takeout and/or that have received approval for various outdoor and/or indoor dining arrangements, click here. **Please note that not all plan to open immediately. Always check first, as many have specific reservations requirements.**  
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/restaurants-takeout-outdoor-dining>

## THURSDAY, JUNE 15

- **FACE MASK DRIVE CONTINUES! Drop-off or Pick-up Donations of Cloth Masks for Seniors: Thurs, Jun 18, 1-2 pm** – At the Community Campus tennis court parking lot. Drive up and leave the masks in the box. If you need a cloth face mask, homemade masks can be mailed to those who could not attend the Distribution Drives. Please email or call Brinn Sullivan, Senior Services Manager, and she will mail you a mask. 603-767-2697. bsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com
- **MAPLEWOOD AVE PAVING THURS JUN 18** -- Sargent Corporation, the contractor for the DPW project, intends to complete the final paving of Maplewood Avenue, from the intersection with Woodbury Avenue, to Edmond Avenue on June 18. Work will proceed, weather permitting. The existing detour will be in place during working hours, along Maplewood Avenue between Edmond Avenue and Woodbury Avenue while paving is underway. Residents, deliveries, school buses, emergency vehicles, etc. will be allowed to access the area, but through traffic will not be permitted. At the end of the day Maplewood Avenue will be reopened to traffic during non-working hours. For more information on this project, visit: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/maplewood-ave-and-adjacent-areas-complete-street-utilities-and-roadway-reconstruction>

**PORTSMOUTH RECREATION DEPARTMENT BOUTIQUE PROGRAMS FOR KIDS** -- The Portsmouth Recreation Department will be offering a session of boutique programs this summer. Each program will run twice a week for six weeks, with a specific focus that allows for maximum social distancing. The programs are for Portsmouth residents only and are free of charge. Children will be kept in pods of eight, with a maximum of four pods per program. Physical distancing and hand sanitizing procedures will be in place, along with encouraging use of masks by participants. The programs include hiking and running clubs, multi-sport, kids' fitness, arts & crafts, Legos and more. Click here for the full program listing and schedule. [www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation)

**DISPOSAL OF USED FACEMASKS, GLOVES, ETC.** -- Please be aware that used facemasks, gloves and cleaning towels should be disposed of in a trash container that is lined with a bag. Please do not put them in recycle bins. Also please do not flush wipes (even those marked 'flushable') as they tend to clog pipes, especially smaller diameter pipes from homes to sewer pipes or septic systems.

**DPW PROJECTS THIS WEEK.** For the latest on individual projects, click here and then on the **Projects tab.** <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks>

- **WATER LINE FLUSHING** -- The Water Division has begun the twice-annual, routine flushing of the City's fire hydrants and 190 miles of water mains to remove sediment buildup. The work is ongoing, Monday through Thursday, between 7 and 11 pm for the next 3 weeks. The flushing operation covers both public and private hydrants in Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Greenland and Newington. Crews open select fire hydrants, releasing water with enough velocity to carry sediment out of the pipes. While flushing can result in discolorations to tap water, customers can use cold water to flush their lines and the water remains safe to drink. If the discoloration persists, customers should contact the Water Division through the [Click 'n Fix](#) system to ensure prompt response.
- **ISLINGTON STREET** -- Detour is in place for one-way, inbound/easterly traffic between the bridge over the Bypass to Aldrich Road and outbound/westerly traffic, detoured down Aldrich. For map, click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/islington-street-corridor-reconstruction-project>
- **MARKET STREET & KEARSARGE WAY BRIDGES:** Final landscaping and other details are being completed on the Market Street gateway park. Kearsarge Way Bridge is being reduced to one lane, with alternating traffic directed by temporary traffic signals. Market Street between the Sarah Long Bridge and the Noble's Island traffic signal is being reduced to one lane in each direction. For the full presentation on the project, click here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBTsRp4Pemo>
- **SIDE STREETS OFF PLEASANT:** Affecting Richmond and Livermore. Equipment staged, as before, on Edmunds.
- **PRESCOTT PARK DOCK RAILING replacement work continues.** The dock remains closed.

**TESTING:** The NH Department of Health & Human Services is now coordinating COVID-19 testing appointments at one of the several testing clinics established throughout the state, for anyone who calls. That testing coordinating office phone number is 603-271-5980. CVS on Lafayette Road in Hampton is now also accepting appointments for testing. For FAQs about testing in New Hampshire, click here. <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/testing-guidance.htm> In addition, the Rite-Aid at 1390

Lafayette Road in Portsmouth is providing free by-appointment testing for COVID-19 to anyone age 18 or over. For more information, click here. <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing>

**Instead of repeating the long list of COVID-related resources each day, you can now find them all collected on one City website page!** Click here. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-resources>

**Sign up for the Daily Advisory, [here](#). The latest news is always at the top, in red.**

**For answers to other questions about the City's response to COVID-19, please email: [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com)**

**For more information, visit [City's page on COVID-19](#).**