



City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor

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Media Release

DATE: March 13, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A MESSAGE FROM GREENFIELD MAYOR GREENFIELD, MA

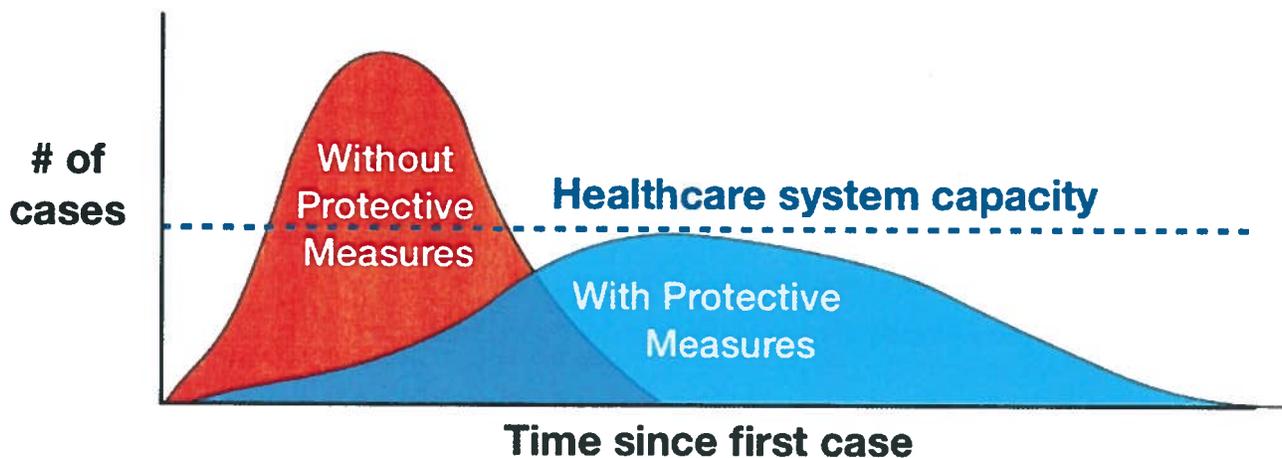
March 13, 2020

Dear Citizens of Greenfield.

As of today, I have declared a State of Emergency in the City of Greenfield. This declaration of a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of City resources to protect you, your family and the citizens of Greenfield from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19. Our City's Emergency response team, made up of the city's Public Safety, Technology, and Health senior staff, has been advising me, and helping me stay informed and gain perspective as we manage this pandemic. This action supports our focus on our priority to maintain the health and safety of our community while also ensuring that we are able to keep the very important business of running our City going, with as few disruptions to service as possible. I urge everyone to remain calm, exercise safe hygiene practices and check in with one another. As the most populous municipality in Franklin County, we hope that providing leadership on this will benefit the county and region as a whole.

According to Public Health Officials, the best way to slow the spread of the virus, or “flatten the curve”, is to exercise what is called social distancing. Slowing the spread will help preserve the health resources in our city, and our county, so that the most severe cases and illnesses will be able to be handled by our public health system, including our own hospital, Baystate Franklin Medical Center.

Flattening the curve is illustrated in the image below, adapted from the CDC and the Economist, printed in the New York Times, March 11, 2020.



Adapted from CDC / The Economist

To that end the following plans are in effect:

- As of the end of business today, the Greenfield Senior Center will be closed. Public Meetings at the John Zon Center will continue for now.
- As of the end of business today, the Greenfield Public Library will be closed to the public.
- Effective Monday, We will reduce the **Public Walk-In Hours** in City Hall, Inspections Division, and the DPW Office. Hours will be 10:00am – 3:00pm.

This plan affects the Clerk, the Tax Collector, the Assessor, Licensing, Retirement, and all other departments housed in those buildings.

- Recreation is cancelling events for the foreseeable future.
- The DPW Wastewater Tours are cancelled until further notice.
- We have implemented an Emergency Paid Time Off Plan and Telecommuting Plan for City employees.
- As Mayor, I need to also limit contact, so will only be making essential appointments with people from outside of the City. I will use the telephone for all others.
- I will revisit this plan near the end of the 2 weeks.

We urge citizens to use the many alternative ways to do business with the City, other than in person. Our city website allows for people to pay fines and taxes online. The Library's online offerings, including e-books and videos, will continue to be available. I am encouraging folks who work for the city to be as helpful as possible citizens who call with questions during this unprecedented event.

Our Public Safety Departments and the Greenfield Public Schools are activating their own Emergency Protocols, as we have all been in close coordination with an eye toward the health and safety of our citizens, employees and school children.

Onward,



Roxann Wedegartner

Mayor