



Town of Dudley Massachusetts
Office of the Town Administrator
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

Jonathan J. Ruda
Town Administrator

TO: All Media Outlets

FROM: Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator

Date: March 25, 2020 17:45

RE: First Case of COVID-19 confirmed in Dudley

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Town of Dudley can confirm that it has received notice of its first case of COVID-19. The notification is a sobering reminder that the extreme measures and orders taken to date, despite the inconvenience and hardship that they may cause, are appropriate, necessary and meant to protect the public health and safety of our community.

According to Dudley Town Administrator, Jonathan Ruda, “Although this is Dudley’s first confirmed case, this is not the first case in the area, and very likely will not be the last. On behalf of the Dudley Boards of Selectmen and Health, I am calling on all town residents to continue to follow the guidance that has been provided to date, and I’m asking all members of the community to consider the health and safety of first responders in addition to the health and safety of your family and neighbors. State-mandated protocols regarding COVID-19 are in place for Emergency Medical Services that require patients experiencing flu-like symptoms, but *not* experiencing any life-threatening symptoms, to first call-ahead to their primary care physician. The use of an ambulance, in the absence of a life threatening condition and to transport patients that display non-life-threatening symptoms of COVID-19 puts the first responder at risk of the need to quarantine, remove the ambulance from service for cleaning and disinfecting and jeopardize the ability of the community to respond to actual emergencies during this difficult time. If you however, have a medical emergency, or are experiencing a true, life-threatening symptom, either related or unrelated to COVID-19, please do not hesitate to call. In all cases, our public safety personnel stress that when calling 911, please inform the dispatcher whether you or someone else at your location is symptomatic of COVID-19. The dispatcher will advise responding units to take necessary precautions.”

The Town of Dudley is stressing to all residents, the importance of checking dudleyma.gov for important updates and information on accessing important town services, and the availability of all residents to call (508) 949-8001 between the hours of 8:30 and 4:30,



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Monday-Friday for any additional help that may be required or needed. “The difficulty in serving the public has been that we have been restricted in our ability to serve the public through traditional means. Although you can’t see us face-to-face, your essential services are still staffed and opened, we can be contacted by phone or email during regular business hours same as always, and we are here for one purpose, and that is to help you. Please do not hesitate to call on us.”

Contact: Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Public Information Officer

(508) 949-8001

administrator@dudleyma.gov