



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

GATHERINGS LIMITED TO 25 PEOPLE, CLOSURE OF RESTAURANTS & COFFEE SHOPS, AND MUNICIPAL OFFICES ARE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

MARCH 16, 2020: The Town of South Kingstown is monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, is following State and Federal guidance to help promote the health and safety of our community, and is implementing additional precautionary measures to reduce opportunities for COVID-19 transmission in South Kingstown.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the recent Declaration of Emergency by the Town Council (March 15th, 2020), and in accordance with a directive issued today by the Governor, **the Town Manager has authorized by Executive Order the following emergency measures, effective Tuesday March 17th, 2020: All restaurants and coffee shops will shut down and remain closed until Monday, March 30, 2020 except for take-out, drive-through and delivery services; and All gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.** The Police Department is authorized to enforce these regulations in accordance with State directives and Emergency Management statute. The full Executive Order is attached to this Press Release for ease in reference.

In addition, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the recent Declaration of Emergency by the Town Council (March 15th, 2020), and Executive Order by the Town Manager (March 16th, 2020) **effective Monday March 16th, 2020 and until further notice, Town Hall and all municipal offices that remain open to the public are no longer allowing walk in service, and are open to the public by appointment only.** Many questions can be answered by phone or email, and many services are available on the Town's website - an appointment may not even be necessary. Members of the public can use the Drop Box at Town Hall to submit items that do not require face to face interaction, such as tax or utility payments (no cash please), employment applications, etc. If an appointment is necessary, please call (401) 789-9331 and use the department directory. The staff directory is also available as a link on the Town's homepage.

During this pandemic, all residents are strongly encouraged to minimize their risk through the use of social distancing, proper handwashing, and proper cough and sneeze etiquette. The Town echoes the guidance issued by the Governor that residents should avoid crowded places and to please stay home except for running essential errands such as going to the grocery store. All residents are strongly encouraged to remain home if you are sick or under self-quarantine. All residents are strongly encouraged to stay up to date on the Federal, State, and local response to and guidance on the evolving COVID-19 situation. Please visit the Town's COVID-19 webpage for up to date information and links to Federal, State, and local resources www.southkingstownri.com/998/COVID-19.

Because of the evolving nature of this ongoing community health situation, the Town may implement additional mitigation measures with short notice, and the information provided here is subject to change. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. For additional updates from the Town, as well as information and resources related to COVID-19, we encourage residents to visit www.southkingstownri.com. Updates and information will also be shared via the Town's official Facebook page, www.facebook.com/southkingstownri. Questions can be referred to the Town Manager's Office at (401) 789-9331 x1201.



Town of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

Office of the Town Manager

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Robert C. Zarnetske
Town Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE ORDER

In an effort to protect our community and do all we can to help control the spread of COVID-19, and in accordance with a directive issued today by the Governor of Rhode Island, the following emergency measures are authorized:

Effective March 17, 2020 all restaurants and coffee shops will shut down and remain closed until Monday, March 30, 2020, except for take-out, drive-through and delivery services. In addition, all gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.

The Police Department is authorized to enforce these regulations in accordance with state directives and the Emergency Management statute.

Issued March 16, 2020.

By

Robert Zarnetske, Town Manager

Attest:

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk