



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor  
**Thomas W. Bernard**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MARCH 16, 2020, CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FROM THE CITY OF NORTH ADAMS**

NORTH ADAMS, MA (March 16, 2020)

Friends,

Here are several updates for today. As always, the goal of these communications is to provide current, accurate, reliable information to the North Adams and Northern Berkshire communities in response to the rapidly changing circumstances around the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

For a link to the orders the governor issued yesterday, including those around school closures, bars and restaurants, visitation prohibitions at hospitals and assisted living facilities, and other provisions visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

In addition to the governor's order limiting gatherings to 25 individuals, today the Trump administration recommended that people limit gatherings to 10 individuals.

#### **SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

School meal distribution began today at Brayton and Colegrove Park elementary schools. I want to thank the school district food service staff for their work in helping meet this critical need while our schools are closed. Beginning tomorrow the district will add two additional daily distribution sites at the Greylock Valley and Mohawk Forest apartments. All distributions will take place from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

With things changing rapidly I know many people have questions about how these orders, office and school closures, and other issues affect individuals, organizations, and businesses.

Today, the Northern Berkshire Regional Planning Committee in partnership with the City of North Adams established the Northern Berkshire COVID-19 Operations Center as centralized hub for the communities of North Adams, Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Savoy, New Ashford,

Florida, and Williamstown; Stamford, Vermont; as well as for MCLA and Williams College. The center will focus on streamlining all communication and requests to our local, state and federal partners.

In order to meet the needs of our communities, the operations center has established a COVID-19 Hotline (413-662-3614) and email address (nbcovid@gmail.com) for our partner communities. The focus of the hotline is to answer all questions that individuals and agencies may have specific to COVID-19 and what services they may need. In order to be as proactive as possible, we also need to know what services individuals or community members and organizations may be able to offer. The Operations Center community liaisons available to receive information immediately and to work with agencies including places of worship, homeless shelters, food pantries, libraries, restaurants and many more.

Finally, today the Baker-Polito administration announced a \$10 million small business recovery loan fund. The program, overseen by the Mass Growth Capital Corporation, will give out capital loans of up to \$75,000 available immediately and with no payments due for six months. Businesses with fewer than 50 full time and part time employees, including nonprofits, are eligible to apply. Applications can be filled out online at [www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org](http://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org).

#### UPDATES ON CLOSURES

The Child Care of the Berkshires Monument Square Center in North Adams will be closed from March 19-March 27.

The North Adams Public Library posted information on how residents can access library services while the library is closed to the public: <http://www.naplibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/NAPL-closing-services.pdf>

The North Adams Retirement Board announced that their offices will be closed to the public through March 30. Members will still be able to conduct business with the board online or by phone.