CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Manager's Advisory
Monday, December 14, 2020

FIRST DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINE ARRIVE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE -- New Hampshire expects to receive 12,675 in the first allotment of vaccine for immediate distribution to at-risk health workers including front line clinical staff providing direct patient care. Subsequent weekly allotments of the vaccine will be distributed to the populations and individuals included in Phase 1a, including at-risk health workers, residents of long-term care facilities, and first responders. The timeline for widespread access to a COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be approximately 6-12 months, according to health officials. As vaccine production increases over time, updated information on when people can expect to receive the vaccine will be posted at NH.gov/COVID19. "This momentous occasion marks the beginning of the end of the pandemic," DHHS Commissioner Lori Shibinette said in a prepared statement a day before the vaccine arrived. "The FDA conducted a thorough approval process while ensuring an unprecedented timeline for vaccine production. The Pfizer vaccine has proven to be safe and very effective in protecting people from COVID-19. This is great news for the people of New Hampshire, who have endured so much for the past 10 months. The end is in sight for this worldwide pandemic."

GOVERNOR SUNUNU'S EMERGENCY ORDER AND STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE EXTENDED THROUGH FEBRUARY 5, 2021 --
https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/emergency-order-72.pdf

PORTSMOUTH MASK MANDATE IN EFFECT THROUGH JANUARY 4, 2021 – Third and final reading of the extension of the mandate through June 30, 2021 at tonight's City Council meeting.
CITY COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUATION MON 6:30 pm via Zoom. For the Agenda (continued from the Dec 7 meeting) and new Zoom registration, click here.
http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2020/citycouncil/cc121420Recessed_12-7-20.pdf

For answers to Portsmouth Mask Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions, click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-10/MaskOrdinanceFAQ%202020.10.05.pdf

For Testing FAQs click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/testing-faqs

For COVID-19 & Mask Facts click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-mask-facts

For Ventilation FAQs click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/ventilation-faqs

For Daily Life During the Pandemic FAQs, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/daily-life-during-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION FROM NH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, click here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/self-quarantine-covid.pdf

For DHHS COVID-19 FAQs, click here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-19-faq.pdf

LET THE MAGIC SHINE THROUGH: SECRET #7 – Did you know there are 76 participants in the Holiday Lights Contest – and more bringing light and cheer to the December darkness? The map showing all the neighborhoods filled with Holiday Lights Contest entries is now available! Click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-12/HolidayLightsMAP.pdf

LET THE MAGIC SHINE THROUGH: SECRET #7B – Fire Chief Todd Germain has convinced Santa to share the map of the route he'll take to check out all the holiday decorations on Saturday, December 19. (Chief had to promise to let Santa ride on the back of a ladder truck, in exchange. Santa Claus does like those shiny bright red "sleighs"! For the route and the estimated times he'll be passing through, so children can wave from their front porches or lawns, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-12/Santa%20Route%202020.pdf

PORTSMOUTH ROTARY ORNAMENT SALES PROVIDE DINING GIFT CARDS TO HARD-HIT WAITSTAFF -- This year's ornament, a Portsmouth Rotary tradition since 1994, not only showcases an "institution," it is a means to achieve a great cause: $10,000+ in local restaurant gift cards distributed to local restaurant waitstaff. Buy this year's collectible brass ornament of the iconic Gilley's Diner and Portsmouth Rotary will use 100% of the profits to buy restaurant gift certificates waitstaff. The ornaments are $20 when purchased at the restaurants or $22 if purchased online: https://portsmouth.rotary7780gives.org/rotarytree2020

WELFARE DEPARTMENT ACCEPTING GIFT CARD DONATIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN – Once again, the City's Welfare Office is collecting gift cards for families who have older kids who are not typically served by other Christmas programs in town. Local agencies who provide holiday assistance do a wonderful job here in Portsmouth, but teenagers can be a difficult population to serve. To help close that gap, the Welfare Department is again collecting gift cards in small denominations for things like movie tickets, coffee houses, stores such as Old Navy, Gamestop and Kohl's. As with the donation of gift cards for school supplies in September, the gift cards **can be mailed (Ellen Tully, Welfare Department, City Hall, 1 Junkins Ave. Portsmouth NH 03801), left in the gray drop box in front of City Hall or, dropped off with the receptionist.** Please contact Ellen Tully, 610-7267, etully@cityofportsmouth.com with any questions or concerns.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS -- The Chamber Collaborative is not holding a holiday gathering this year. Instead, the Chamber is gathering resources for local nonprofits who have provided a list of what would help them out this holiday (and year-round). Requests range from $10 to bring a student on a field trip with Great Bay Stewards to $1,500 to sponsor one year of therapy at the Richie McFarland Children's Center. Go online to provide "Hope for the Holidays" by granting a local nonprofit's wish. Made possible in part by Service Credit Union, Sheehan Phinney and you. For more information, please contact Jennifer@PortsmouthCollaborative.org http://portsmouthchamber.chambermaster.com/store/hope-for-the-holidays?viewmode=list&pagesize=12&orderby=10

Gather Food Pantry: Gather provides food to hundreds of local families, and the need is even greater this year.. Food distribution, online grocery shopping for people who don't want to enter the shop, meal delivery for Seniors, Meals 4 Kids, Community Fridays 9am-1pm open at Community Campus (open to anyone). Call for info 603-436-0641.

Operation Blessing: Drive up Food Pantry Wed-Fri 10am-4pm. Call for more info 603-430-8561.

MCINTYRE SUBCOMMITTEE HOSTS INTRODUCTION TO MCINTYRE 101 STUDY CIRCLES ON WED DEC 16 at 7 pm via Zoom -- The McIntyre Subcommittee, with the project developer Redgate Kane, and Portsmouth Listens, with assistance from the Boston-based urban design firm The Principle Group, are hosting a "McIntyre 101" public kickoff meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm. To register to attend the Zoom meeting, click here. This kickoff event is intended to prepare residents who have signed up for Portsmouth Listens McIntyre study circles for their deliberations in January, but the public is welcome. To register to participate in the study circles who will deliberate on the opportunity for new public space to enjoy at McIntyre and assist designers at The Principle Group to develop sketches of what is possible, click here and register by noon on December 16, or call 603-610-7211. Participation is open to any city resident. Space is limited by the number of trained facilitators for the study circle. The City wants input from everyone, so there will be online tools and surveys to get additional comments. For further information about the study circles, please email portsmouthlistens@gmail.com

SEACOAST CHAMBER ALLIANCE

- **NEW! EMPLOYABILITY FORUM TUES DEC 15 via Zoom, 8:30-10 am** – With thousands of workers affected by the pandemic economy, the Chambers of the Seacoast Alliance host this forum to help workers understand the concept of employability and connect them with resources available to help improve

their skills. To register for the free forum, click here. https://www.dovernh.org/events/details/seacoast-chamber-alliance-employability-forum-31773

- **WEBSITE** – The new VisitSeacoastNH.com website offers up-to-the-minute resources for businesses and visitors. https://www.visitseacoastnh.com/
- **NEW! POSTERS** – The Alliance has developed a set of posters that businesses and organizations can download for free and print/post to inform their publics. Click here: https://www.visitseacoastnh.com/business-support/

NEW! NH STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS CAMPAIGN FOR PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS – The NHSCA has worked with the Governor's reopening task force to develop graphics for a public information campaign that performing arts organizations across the state can use to remind their audiences that "We Will Be Back." For the free materials, click here. https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sh6t90h3z0ybw3w/AAAyF8_SNapEaW-ellWP3Qeza?dl=0

SNOW THIS WEEK! SIGN UP FOR WINTER PARKING BAN ALERTS – Snow plowing operations during each storm typically begin when snow levels exceed two inches, at which time a citywide parking ban may go into effect in order to facilitate snow removal. **Parking bans for snow removal are announced in several different ways:**

- **CodeRED**: anyone can sign up to receive automatic email and text alerts, click here. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/parkportsmouth/snowrelatedimpacts
- **Snow Phone**: call 766-7669 (SNO-SNOW) to hear recorded messages.
- **Channel 22**: snow parking bans are posted as bulletins
- **CityofPortsmouth.com:** a yellow (planned) or red (in effect) banner appears at the top of City website pages when snow parking ban events occur.
- **Twitter**: follow @PortsmouthDPW
- **Public Works Department:** call 427-1530 or report a snow clearing issue use the Click 'n Fix system. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/portsmouth-click-n-fix

Take advantage of spaces in City parking lots and reduced rates in the garages when the parking ban is in effect! Flat fee parking: $3 at Foundry Place and $5 at the Hanover garage, good from the time an anticipated ban is announced, until 2 hours after. Regular rates apply for additional time parked.

NEW! BLASTING FOR 60 PENHALLOW CONSTRUCTION RESUMED MON DEC 14 at 8 am -- Controlled blasting for the building foundation is scheduled for 8 - 8:30 am, 10-10:30 am, 2-2:30 pm and potentially later in the afternoon. Maine Drilling & Blasting of Auburn NH https://www.mdandb.com/our-expertise has received the necessary permit, will manage traffic around the site and has advised the Fire and Police Department and City dispatchers.

FLEET STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT BUILDING INSPECTIONS NOW UNDERWAY -
- Building owners in the project area (for the project area map, click here) are now being contacted by the Department of Public Works consultant, Flow Assessment Services, LLC to schedule appointments for utility surveys of their buildings. For more information on the project: https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/fleet-street-reconstruction-project

APPOINTMENTS WITH CITY OFFICES: are available to help reduce indoor mingling of households. City offices (Tax, Assessors, City Clerk, Inspections, etc.) are staggering shifts and working remotely when they can to reduce risk. You can make an appointment at any time to meet with these offices in person.
PAY YOUR CITY BILLS ONLINE -- The newly approved $14.70 per $1,000 in valuation property tax rate is reflected in the tax bills mailed recently. The first half is due on December 17. Again this year, the City of Portsmouth offers an online tax calculator at https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/tax/online-property-tax-calculator for residents to use to estimate their tax bill for Fiscal Year 2021. With COVID-19 precautions still in place**, the City urges taxpayers to make their tax bill payments online, where they will receive an instant confirmation and receipt**. https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/pay-my-bill

ONLINE PAYMENT FOR MONTHLY ACCOUNT AT HANOVER GARAGE -- The City of Portsmouth DPW Parking Division announces the activation of a new online account management and payment system for the High/Hanover Garage monthly parking account holders. Beginning with the billing for January 2021, issued later this month, Hanover Garage users with monthly parking accounts will receive a monthly invoice by email, including

account information and total amounts due. Accessible through ParkPortsmouth.com, the new PARIS Online Portal provides the ability for monthly parkers at the Hanover Garage to view a detailed account history and take advantage of the convenience of touch-free online payment. Those who wish to pay by check may continue to do so without a processing fee; but there is a $3 processing fee for online payments to cover the cost of the system.

ASSISTANCE RESOURCES
For Resources and Assistance with housing, food, heat, etc. click here.
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/covid-19-resources

- **Housing Relief Fund**- Governor Chris Sununu authorized the expenditure of $35 million from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund ("flex funds") to support families or individuals in need of housing assistance as a result of COVID-19. Of the allocated $35 million, $20 million will be initially expended, with $15 million being held in reserve, for rent stabilization and housing support. Both the one-time grants and the short-term rental assistance will be coupled with regional case management services to help connect households to appropriate services as defined by the household and the agency. **Program payments will be made directly to the landlord or provider, and this program will end by December 30, 2020**. For more information, visit https://www.capnh.org
- **Help Paying Energy Bills –** Eversource offers a COVID-19 Payment Program that gives customers up to 12 months to pay past-due balances, without down payments, fees or interest. Once enrolled the account is protected from service disconnection for the duration of the payment plan. For more information call 1-800-662-7764 or visit https://www.eversource.com/content/nh
- **Help Paying for Heat** -- Fuel assistance is available from Rockingham County Fuel Assistance program. For information, click here. https://www.snhs.org/programs/energy-programs/low-income-home-energy

WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH THE VACCINATION ROLLOUT?
A corps of qualified vaccinators and non-vaccinators for coordinating the process will be needed as the vaccination effort ramps up. The City Health Department asks residents who are interested in volunteering to visit the NH Responds website. https://nhresponds.org/ and fill out the online registration form. https://nhresponds.org/agreement.php **Volunteers should make sure they check off the "Seacoast COVID Team" in the "COVID-19 Teams" drop-down list in the Organization section of the form to volunteer for Greater Portsmouth efforts**.

TESTING-- The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services provides this list as a service to the community. The Department does not endorse any particular entity for COVID-19 testing services.
https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-testing-options.pdf

For all the COVID-related resources, click here.

Governor Sununu's Emergency Order extended to February 5, 2021.
https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/emergency-order-72.pdf
The State has also made changes to the COVID guidelines to minimize redundancy in each industry sector. **Those guidelines that applied to all industry sectors have been removed from separate sector pages and now live only in the Universal Guidelines (UG) pages**. In some cases (e.g. outdoor attractions, arts, music education, funerals, and more) the sector pages have been eliminated entirely and you'll find a note at the end of the UG specific to those sectors. Click here for the details: https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/

For answers to other questions about the City's response to COVID-19, please email: hotline@cityofportsmouth.com

For more information, visit City's page on COVID-19