

March 16, 2020 East Montpelier Selectboard Order Regarding Municipal Operations During Covid-19 Pandemic

By motion made by Mr. Etnier, seconded by Ms. Willis, and passed unanimously, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, for the health and safety of town residents and the community at large the East Montpelier Selectboard orders the following:

- As of March 17, 2020 the town office building will be closed to the public until further notice;
- The town office staff will continue to maintain the normal office schedule, will provide services to the public by email, telephone and, as warranted on a very limited basis, in person, and will allow limited, one-at-a-time access to the land records by appointment only;
- The town office building will remain locked at all times;
- The road crew will continue to provide necessary services while limiting contact with the public;
- All non-essential, **indoor, ^ in-person*** town committee/commission/board meetings and events are canceled until further notice. **Meetings at public sites outdoors are permitted for gatherings of 25 or fewer, provided that physical distancing and protocols for hygiene consistent with guidance from VDH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are observed:**
 - Always staying home and away from others if you are sick with COVID-19, have recently been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, or just don't feel well.
 - Keeping a 6-foot distance from others when you meet people outside of your household.
 - Frequently washing your hands (hand sanitizer is acceptable when soap and water are not available).
 - Coughing and sneezing into your elbow (even if you are wearing a facial covering).
 - Wearing a facial covering over your nose and mouth.^
- The Selectboard will meet as necessary and will provide options for remote participation at all meetings;
- All non-essential town business travel is cancelled;
- Staff traveling from CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice Countries (presently Iran, South Korea, China, and most of Europe) will require 14 days at home symptom free before returning to work; and,
- Employees are not allowed to come to work with a fever or any other flu-like symptoms.

The Selectboard advises staff, town officials, and town residents to follow steps to avoid spreading contagious diseases, including to:

- Maintain 5-6 feet of distance between people;
- Refrain from shaking hands;
- Regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer;
- Limit fact-to-face meetings and conduct business over the phone or by email whenever possible; and,
- Regularly sanitize commonly touched surfaces (doorknobs, telephones, counters, etc.).

* Added March 30, 2020; ^ Added June 1, 2020