



Town of New Castle, NH
Settled 1623
Incorporated 1693

July 22, 2020 – Updated Guidance

Dear Town of New Castle Residents,

We hope this message find you healthy, safe and with your loved ones. We greatly appreciate the continued efforts of our residents during this trying time.

In our effort to keep residents updated on COVID-19 developments in town, we are updating our guidance to residents today.

We have worked collaboratively with our surrounding communities so that our actions are coordinated and consistent. New Castle has and will continue to adapt to the conditions and data we receive from public health and state officials. **As of July 21, 2020, New Castle has had fewer than 5 cases of COVID-19. And currently, there are zero confirmed cases in town.**

On Friday, July 17th, Governor Chris Sununu provided new guidance on re-opening the state, while maintaining several conditions of his emergency order issued in March of 2020. And while the state has gradually re-opened or loosened restrictions, it has maintained a calibrated and methodical approach to re-opening elements of business, civic and municipal activities.

Since, June 1st, the beach in New Castle has been open to pedestrians and cyclist, as has the Commons area. Parking restrictions remain in place, are clearly marked and enforced. And as a reminder, all individuals must maintain a minimum six-foot distance from others at all times and we strongly encourage the use of masks when possible.

The Commons parking area and playground will not open in 2020 to vehicles. The Commons and the beach remain accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and those visiting New Castle, but the Town will not open the front gate to daily visitors and their vehicles this summer.

The State Parks – Fort Constitution and Fort Stark remain closed to parking. Ft. Stark is looking to re-open once the State can hire staff to manage the guests. Once open, Ft. Stark will be open to visitors Friday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm each day at 50% of its capacity. Remaining in place is the no parking restriction on Route 1B for the foreseeable future.

As a reminder, the Town will continue the suspension of in-person, face to face meetings in Town Hall. If you do have an appointment at Town Hall and the service you require mandates it is done in person, you **MUST** wear a mask for any appointment in Town Hall. A date for re-opening has not yet been set and will be predicated on data and guidance from public health professionals.

All Town business will continue to be conducted through the mail, use of the mail slot on the front door of Town Hall or through the Town website. Should you need something that can't be done using those methods, please call Town Hall and someone will be able to assist you or will respond to your voicemail message.

Some boards and committees must meet in person and accommodations are made for those meetings so that they can be conducted safely and without endangering the Town staff, residents or public officials who attend.

Town personnel will continue reviewing email, voicemail and monitor the mail during the shutdown period. The Town Clerk has posted additional relevant information. Please monitor the Town Website at www.NewCastleNH.org and sign up for email updates (Notify Me).

This is in line with the updated Stay At Home guidance issued by Governor Chris Sununu. <https://www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/executive-order-2020-5.pdf> Here's a link to the state website <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov>

A reminder to all residents, essential workers and businesses will continue to operate. So you will see construction workers in town who are essential and working on projects we had planned before the emergency was declared.

The water infrastructure project continues to make great progress. If residents can drive towards the Wentworth southbound side of New Castle for the foreseeable future, then you should experience fewer delays and avoid traffic congestion. We still recommend this route. The project is fast approaching the downtown area and we are close to seeing this substantial phase of the water project completed in 2020.

The Select Board extends a heartfelt thank you to John Poisson, Town Moderator, and Mercedes Tyler, Supervisor of the Checklist, for all the time, effort and planning they did for the town election and town meeting back in June. There is a September primary and the November General Election that they will be planning for and based on their outstanding work in May and June, we fully expect they'll be ready for those elections as well.

New guidance was issued last week by the Governor and you can now apply for an Absentee Ballot for both the primary and the general election with just one application (not 2). This streamlined process can be done by submitting the application to the Town Clerk, Priscilla Hodgkins, who has done a fantastic job during this challenging time.

We realize these are trying times. Please be patient with your neighbors and kind to one another. If you have questions or need assistance with something, don't hesitate to contact Town Hall at 603-431-6710, Police Department at 603-436-3113 or the Fire Department at 603-436-1132. Of course, if you have any type of emergency contact 911 immediately.

Be well and stay safe.

New Castle Select Board