



May 22, 2020 – Updated Guidance

Dear Town of New Castle Residents,

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

We continue keep residents updated on COVID-19 developments in town. We do work 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 May 21, 2020, New Castle has had fewer than 5 cases of COVID-19.**

On Monday, June 1st, the beach in New Castle will re-open in concert with other coastal communities in New Hampshire. Parking restrictions will remain in place, will be clearly marked and enforced. The beach will re-open for transitory physical activity, which includes walking, running, swimming, surfing, kayaking, and paddle boarding. Sand sports, sun-bathing, picnicking, or other stationary activities on the beach are NOT permitted. Group size is limited to 10 or fewer people. And as a reminder, all individuals must maintain a minimum six-foot distance from others at all times.

The State Parks – Fort Constitution and Fort Stark remain closed to parking. In addition, there is no parking on 1B for the foreseeable future.

As a reminder, the Town will continue the suspension of in-person, face to face meetings in Town Hall or other Town Buildings. 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.

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 2.0 guidance issued by Governor Chris Sununu. 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. By doing so, it will enable the project to proceed smoother and at a faster pace. Just so residents know, there is also a bridge project on the Sawtelle Bridge, which will continue for at least a few more months. So if you do choose to take Portsmouth Avenue to Portsmouth, please be aware there are 2 construction projects being executed at this time.

An additional reminder to all residents, the Town Moderator, John Poisson, and Select Board have moved the Town Meeting and Election originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 to Tuesday, June 23, 2020. It is our sincere hope the postponement to late June will enable us to hold our Town Meeting and Election safely and without undue risk to public health and safety. The Town Moderator and the Supervisors of the Checklist are actively planning and preparing for the election and town meeting and making sure all residents can exercise their right to vote and to do so safely. The Select Board extends a heartfelt thank you to John Poisson and Mercedes Tyler for all they are doing to plan for the town election and town meeting.

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