



**CITY OF PEABODY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES**

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**2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory
First Case of Confirmed Positive COVID-19 in Peabody**

The Peabody Health Department announced today that a Peabody resident has been confirmed positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This resident is following the recommended isolation protocols and the Peabody Health Department will be in regular contact with this individual to monitor their status and condition. The Peabody Health Department is also working to identify and provide guidance to all close contacts of the individual.

Due to privacy laws, the City cannot provide information about the individual's identity, location, or the circumstances surrounding their contraction of the virus. Peabody's Public Health Nurse is working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to perform extensive contact tracing to identify close contacts of this case, and will be contacting affected individuals directly.

"I know the thoughts of our entire community are with the affected individual and their family, and that the City of Peabody will come together to support each other through this trying time," said Mayor Ted Bettencourt. "COVID-19 is an evolving situation," said Health Director Sharon Cameron. "The Peabody Health Department and other key City departments have been preparing for this threat for some time. The risk level throughout Massachusetts is rising and we now know that COVID-19 is in our community. We will continue to update the public about the level of risk in our community through the City's website at www.peabody-ma.gov."

Social distancing continues to be the most important precaution against COVID-19. Following Governor Baker's order on March 15, schools will remain closed until April 6. Other City buildings including City Hall, public libraries, the Senior Center and other offices will also remain closed but will continue to offer essential services. Playgrounds have been closed to the public. Food establishments have stopped on-premises consumption, and certain personal care businesses, social and civic gatherings, and religious services will be ordered to cease per directive of the Peabody Board of Health.

We understand this is a time of great uncertainty. We will continue to monitor this situation and will distribute the necessary information and guidance. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support as we work together to keep Peabody residents safe.

For More Information:

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about novel coronavirus. Please visit:

City of Peabody website: www.peabody-ma.gov

Massachusetts Department of Public Health: www.mass.gov/dph

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

Massachusetts coronavirus hotline: 211