



**TOWN OF LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT**



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**COVID-19 UPDATE**

I hope all are doing well. I would like to just reach out and give a few updates on the fire and EMS side of things during this situation.

We want to reassure all our residents that we are ready and available to respond to every and any call we get, we are as prepared as we can be. We have been very fortunate to have amazing people in town make donations of much needed protective equipment and disinfectant.

We want to remind people that if you do start to have any signs of COVID to please call your Dr first. They will then direct you what to do, if you can stay home that is what is recommended, we have been given new guidelines for in home treatment and non-transport of certain cases. Yes if you are having any more serious complications such as shortness of breath or difficulty breathing call 911.

Most importantly we want to let everyone know of our change in responses to both Fire and EMS calls.

When we respond with the ambulance for a medical call, our EMT's will be wearing mask, gloves and safety glasses, 1 EMT will approach the patient to make the assessment, you will be handed a mask to wear, and asked about any sickness, or anyone in the house has been sick or fever, or if you have been tested for COVID, these will be asked regardless to why we were called, you may be asked to meet us outside if you are able to. If you cannot come outside we will meet someone at the door as the questions and hand them the mask to put on the patient and ask everyone in the house to wait outside. This is for the protection of all involved.

Normally when we transport someone to the hospital your loved one or family member would come with us or follow to the hospital, unfortunately this is not being allowed right now. You can call the hospital and ask when you can go and they will explain the procedures. Everyone enter a hospital is being screened, and every patient we bring in by ambulance has to have a mask on.

When calling 911 they will ask these questions ahead of time so they can advise us on what level of precaution we need to take. Depending on the answers you may see the EMT's wearing a protective gown which is part of the OEMS protocol for response.

Also on the Fire side of things, if we respond to your house for any reason the firefighters will be wearing mask for theirs and your protection and the same questions will be asked as above.

Don't hesitate to call we train for this and are as prepared as we can be. We are willing to assist in any way we can.

As far as inspections go, the Fire marshals office has released information on selling of homes and closings I will send it to the clerk to post on the towns web site and have it posted on the fire depts. Site as well, we currently are not doing any in home inspections unless it is an emergency situation.

The fire station remains closed to the public but there is a drop box next to the main door for permits and payments or other information or paperwork that you need to get to us. Any questions you can call the station @ 978-368-4003 we are here from 7am till 9pm this is for business or questions only please call 911 for emergencies. You can contact the Fire Chief by email @ [mhanson@lancasterfd.net](mailto:mhanson@lancasterfd.net) as well.

Additionally the drop box at the fire station can be used to drop off payments for the Town Hall as well, or any other paper work you need to get there, we are in contact with them daily.

Thank you all for adhering to all the social distancing guidelines, we are experiencing a pandemic that we cannot put an end date on, but are learning more everyday and know how fast it can spread so please take all precautions, and help flatten the curve. If you must go to the store send one family member, wear a mask, wash your hands, be safe and please check on your neighbors, seniors or others that you know may need assistance and if you have any concerns reach out to us and we will follow up.

We are on daily calls with the state, MEMA, DPH and all our department heads staying informed and up to date on the COVID-19.

Please find a credible source for information, social media is a great tool but unfortunately not everything is true that is posted, I recommend the Mass.gov website there is a COVID-19 link that is updated daily on cases and the numbers and information pertaining to everything COVID, or the CDC website. These will give you real and up to date information and guidelines.

Thank you and stay safe.

*Michael J. Hanson*

**Fire Chief/EMD**

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