

USDA approves Massachusetts plan to join online EBT grocery purchase pilot

The Baker-Polito Administration announced today that Massachusetts received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to move forward on participation in a pilot program that, once established, will allow households who receive food assistance benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase groceries online with electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards. Massachusetts applied to participate in this federal pilot program on April 24th.

“Innovative options like this alongside the Administration’s investment of \$56 million to combat food insecurity based on the recommendations of the Commonwealth’s Food Security Task Force will go a long way to meeting the basic needs of families and individuals during this public health emergency,” said COVID-19 Command Center Director and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. “Federal SNAP benefits are a strong support for hundreds of thousands of people in the Commonwealth, and this pilot will expand safer grocery options for those individuals across the state.”

“Online EBT grocery purchasing promotes equity and safety for our residents receiving SNAP benefits, allowing low-income households access to the same purchasing choices as other shoppers. This approval is a key first step in making this critical option available to the families and individuals we serve,” said Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) Commissioner Amy Kershaw. “We look forward to working with our partners to implement this new functionality as soon as possible.”

Implementing online EBT grocery purchasing in Massachusetts is one of the Massachusetts Food Security Task Force's recommendations to maximize federal resources for food and nutrition. The Task Force convened on April 22, 2020 to develop actionable solutions to address growing food insecurity among individuals and families across the Commonwealth due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Baker on Sunday announced \$56 million in investments to initiate the Task Force's initial recommendations to combat food insecurity and address urgent needs.

Since the start of the public health emergency, applications for SNAP benefits have increased upwards of 400%, resulting in more than 80,000 new households now receiving SNAP.

Federal SNAP rules generally prohibit online purchases with an EBT card. In 2019, the USDA established a six-state pilot program to explore online SNAP EBT transactions for food purchases. In response to COVID-19, USDA has allowed additional states to apply to participate in the pilot program.

Now that approval has been received, DTA will work with the state's EBT vendor, Conduent, and the two retailers participating in the federal pilot program, Walmart and Amazon, to implement the state's plan as soon as possible.

DTA assists and empowers low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long term economic self-sufficiency. DTA serves one in nine residents of the Commonwealth with direct economic assistance and food assistance, as well as workforce training opportunities.

For more information related to DTA in light of COVID-19, visit <https://www.mass.gov/DTA/COVID-19>

Mayor Mitchell announces New Bedford's reopening plan

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced that the City of New Bedford will follow and implement the first phase of Governor Charlie Baker's reopening plan, with adjustments warranted by the current risk level of disease transmission in the city and region.

On Monday, Governor Baker announced his plan to reopen the Commonwealth of Massachusetts "to methodically allow businesses, services, and activities to resume, while avoiding a resurgence of COVID-19." The plan sets forth three phases of reopening, along which the state will proceed in light of health data trends.

The plan includes sector-specific guidance businesses, worship services, recreation, municipals services and other activities. The Governor's plan may be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>. As the Governor made clear, his reopening decisions are based in part on the progress the state has made in lowering the number of new positive cases and the positive test rate.

The state of the virus in New Bedford is different from that of the state as a whole. There have been fewer positive COVID-19 cases in New Bedford per capita than most cities in the Northeast, but the number of new positive cases and hospitalizations have been relatively flat – that is, not declining – and the rate of positive tests is higher than the rest of the state. Current information on these trends may be found on the city's website: <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/health-department/coronavirus/>.

The current rate of disease transmission in New Bedford warrants additional precautions, especially with respect to indoor settings with the potential for large gatherings, where the risk of transmission is relatively high. Of particular concern are industrial facilities. Because traditional industry represents a larger portion of Greater New Bedford's economy than the state as a whole, and given that the city has witnessed disease spread in industrial facilities which have remained open, the City will continue to enforce its order concerning industrial facilities, which was issued by Mayor Mitchell and the Board of Health on May 6. That order establishes hygiene, social distancing and employee screening requirements, and reporting mandates that are stricter than the state's new directive for manufacturing facilities.

Churches and other houses of worship likewise have the potential to hold large numbers of people. The state's reopening plan includes useful guidance on social distancing in church services, and establishes a cap on attendance in houses of worship equal to 40% of permitted capacity. Given the potential for large gatherings in some congregations that utilize large facilities despite the cap, the city will establish a lower cap for larger houses of worship. Attendance at worship services in the city will be capped at 40% of permitted capacity, or 100 people, whichever is lower. In any case, all houses of worship are strongly encouraged to promote social distancing, maintaining at least six feet between families at all times.

The details of the remaining activities allowed to resume during Phase I of the state's reopening plan are set forth below.

Mayor Mitchell remarked, "The governor's approach to reopening the state is a sound one, as it is grounded in reliable data about the current rate of transmission of the coronavirus in Massachusetts and the relative risk of outbreak associated with the activities that are allowed to be resumed. While it

is important for the cities and towns to take a uniform approach to implement the governor's plan to avoid confusion and unfair competition, the reality is that not every region of the state is experiencing the disease in the same way. Here in New Bedford, we are adopting additional, reasonable precautions given that, unlike the rest of the state, we have yet to see a consistent decline in new cases."

Reopening New Bedford: Phase 1

For operations permitted to reopen May 18

Manufacturing & Industrial Operations: As noted above, earlier this month, Mayor Mitchell and the Board of Health laid out important requirements to protect all workers at large workplaces in New Bedford. As manufacturers reopen in New Bedford, they will be required to enforce social distancing, perform regular cleaning, designate a health and safety officer for COVID-19, and conduct temperature checks of all workers at the start of each shift to protect workers. The City will continue to enforce its orders regarding large workplaces, copies of which is attached.

Construction: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning construction, reopening May 18. The state requires construction operations to enforce social distancing, properly disinfect workplaces, and obtain self-certification from employees that they haven't experienced symptoms or been in close contact with those who are positive for COVID-19. In-home installations and home remodeling can begin following the state's guidance on social distancing and cleaning, starting May 18.

Places of Worship: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning places of worship, reopening May 18, but with additional guidelines. The state has announced that no more than 40% of the building's maximum capacity as documented in its occupancy permit may be allowed to attend worship

services. In New Bedford, as noted above, the cap will be at 40% of capacity or 100 people, whichever is lower.

For operations permitted to reopen May 25

Parks, Trails & the Blue Lane: Parks, trails and the Blue Lane in New Bedford have remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with social distancing measures enforced. Based on the first phase of the state's reopening, that won't change – New Bedford's parks will remain open, with social distancing. Specifically, playgrounds, basketball courts and soccer fields will reopen at a later date.

Beaches: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning beaches, reopening May 25, but with additional guidelines. At New Bedford's beaches, only New Bedford residents will be able to purchase a beach pass until further notice. Social distancing measures will be enforced, with no beach volleyball or other organized sports permitted. Public restrooms at the beach will be closed until further notice.

Beach parking passes will be sold on-site at Fort Taber Park (cash only) and with credit/debit card only at www.nbprb.com, under Register Now, Beach Parking Information. The City will also conduct a pop-up beach parking pass sale on Friday, May 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. outside the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center, 181 Hillman Street. Cash, credit/debit cards will be accepted. Masks must be worn and social distancing and hygiene protocols will be observed.

Buttonwood Park Zoo: Based on the state's announcement, the Buttonwood Park Zoo will reopen on May 30. The Zoo will operate under regular business hours but on an adjusted schedule from Wednesday through Sunday only, until further notice. Tickets for time-based admission will be sold online in accordance with state guidelines at www.bpzoo.org. Social distancing protocols and reduced capacity of visitors will be observed in accordance with state guidelines, and indoor

exhibits and rides will be closed to the public. The Buttonwood Park Zoo will follow stringent social distancing, hygiene, and cleaning protocols in order to keep all visitors to the Zoo safe and healthy.

Hair Salons & Barbershops: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning these businesses, reopening May 25. Strict health and safety measures will be enforced under the state's guidelines, including social distancing, capacity limitations, staffing and operations, and hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

Pet Groomers: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning these businesses, reopening May 25. The state's guidelines around social distancing, staffing and operations, and hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be enforced.

Car Washes: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning these businesses, reopening May 25. The state's guidelines around social distancing, staffing and operations, and hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be enforced.

Recreational Boating: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning recreational boating, which is allowed to resume May 25.

Private Offices: New Bedford will follow the state's guidelines concerning private offices, reopening May 25. The state's guidelines around social distancing, hygiene protocols, and cleaning will be implemented.

Retail (e.g. clothing stores, toy stores, jewelry stores, nurseries and garden centers that do not sell food products): Based on the first phase of the state's reopening guidelines, these stores will be permitted to offer curbside pickup and delivery only, beginning May 25.

Parking at Meters: Enforcement of metered parking will not be resumed under the first phase of reopening. When retail stores and restaurants reopen during the second phase of reopening, metered parking enforcement will take effect.

Auto Dealers & Wholesalers: Under the state's guidelines, auto dealers and wholesalers will be permitted to offer curbside pickup and delivery only beginning May 25.

City Offices & Facilities: City Hall and other city offices continue to serve residents remotely, as they have since mid-March, until further notice.

Libraries: Under the state's first phase of reopening, beginning June 1, the New Bedford Free Public Library system will be open for curbside pickup only during regular branch hours, available at www.newbedford-ma.gov/library. Patrons with books on hold may be called the week of May 25 for curbside pickup.

For more information on the status of reopening in New Bedford and other important news, visit the COVID-19 page on www.newbedford-ma.gov. For information on the masks available to any New Bedford resident who wants one, visit www.masknb.com.

**Bristol County Sheriff
Hodgson releases criminal
histories of inmates released**

due to COVID-19

The Bristol County Sheriff's Office has updated its Prisoner Release Alert Notification System to include the criminal histories of county inmates who are being released from jail by judges due to COVID-19.

In the new newsletter, Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson highlights an individual who was facing a charge of Accessory After the Fact and was ordered released by a judge. The individual has a long criminal history with more than 70 other charges, including rape, drug possession and distribution, assaults and others.

"A little context goes a long way," Sheriff Hodgson wrote in his remarks on the Alert System graphic. "I'm doing this because the people have a right to know who's walking around their neighborhoods. From the beginning of the COVID pandemic, I have said that releasing people from prison because they might catch a virus is wrong and goes against the best interest of public safety."

In the new newsletter, each bullet point represents a different individual who was ordered released from a Bristol County correctional facility due to COVID-19, according to the BCSO. For the more than 50 county inmates released, it also includes, if any, the charges they're faced over the years. It also lists the ICE detainees that have been released by federal judges and the charges/convictions they've had.

This is the third update to the Bristol County Sheriff's Office The Prisoner Release Alert System. The first included only ICE detainees and the second added county inmates. Today's update adds criminal histories. If anyone is planning on printing it out, please have some large paper ready: To fit all the charges, the document is 3 feet tall by 3 feet wide.

"I took an oath to do all I can to protect the people of

Bristol County and make our communities better places to live, work and raise a family. I can't defy the judges' orders to release these people, but I sure can let the people know just who's roaming around their communities."

Boston Police arrest 18 people and confiscate 30 dirt bikes, ORVs, mopeds, scooters

In an ongoing effort to address community complaints and quality of life concerns relative to off-road vehicles including dirt bikes, mopeds and motor scooters being driven around the city in a reckless and irresponsible manner, members of the BPD's Auto Theft Unit assisted by units from various districts throughout the city recently arrested 18 individuals and confiscated 30 off road vehicles.

At about 11:30 AM on Friday, May 8, 2020, officers assigned to the B-3 (Mattapan) Auto Investigations Unit responded to a radio call to assist another unit with a traffic stop of a motorized dirt bike in the area of 842 Morton Street in Dorchester. On arrival, officers observed an individual operating the dirt bike in the parking lot of a gas station in the area before parking it on the sidewalk. Officers conducted a query of the dirt bike, which was later determined to be a Yamaha RT off-road motorcycle, and discovered it to be unregistered with the Massachusetts Environmental Police. The dirt bike was confiscated and the operator was issued a Massachusetts Uniform Citation.

At about 7:45 PM on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, officers assigned to the Auto Theft Unit made an onsite arrest and recovered

illegal dirt bikes in the area of 52 Hecla Street in Dorchester. While on patrol in the area of Park Street in Dorchester, officers observed two individuals operating dirt bikes without their helmets. Officers further observed the individuals going through red lights, weaving in and out of traffic, and traveling on the wrong side of the road all while operating at a speed greater than reasonable. Officers observed multiple vehicles move out of the way due to the operators' unpredictable movements. The operators were observed lifting the front wheel of the dirt bikes and weaving from side to side on Adams Street before quickly turning onto Hecla Street where they brought the dirt bikes to the rear of a residence on the street. One of the males hurriedly entered the residence while officers were able to take the second male into custody. The other male was identified and issued a citation. Officers impounded the two dirt bikes as well as a moped which were located in the rear of the residence on Hecla Street.

Officers arrested a 26-year-old male of Mattapan who was charged with Disorderly Conduct, Operating a Recreational Vehicle to Endanger, Unlicensed Operation, Operating a Recreational Vehicle on Public Property, Helmet Violation, Negligent and Reckless Operation of a Recreational Vehicle, Speeding, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and Marked Lane Violation.

At about 5:30 PM on Thursday, May 14, 2020, officers assigned to the Auto Theft Unit made an onsite arrest and recovered an illegal dirt bike in the area of Magazine Street and Dudley Street in Roxbury. While on patrol in the area of Massachusetts Ave and Norfolk Street in Roxbury, officers observed two individuals standing next to a yellow dirt bike in the parking lot of the U-Haul at the above intersection. One of the males entered a white SUV and the second male exited the lot on the dirt bike alongside the white SUV, travelling on Mass Ave. The operator of the dirt bike, who was not wearing a helmet, stopped in the area of Magazine Street

and Dudley Street where officers quickly exited their cruisers and approached. The operator of the dirt bike was issued a summons to appear in Roxbury District Court on charges of Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle on a Public Way, Helmet Violation, and Operating a Recreational Vehicle on a Public Way. The dirt bike was confiscated and towed from the scene. While officers were speaking with the operator of the dirt bike a white SUV approached. A query led to the discovery that the operator had an active straight warrant out of Wrentham District Court for Receiving Stolen Property, Identity Fraud, Larceny Over \$1200, Uttering a False Check. The 29-year-old male of Jamaica Plain was taken into custody.

At about 7:49 PM on Friday, May 15, 2020, officers assigned to the B-3 (Mattapan) Auto Investigations Unit responded to a radio call to assist another unit with a vehicle investigation in the area of 8 Elwyn Road in Dorchester. On arrival, officers observed a male in the rear of the aforementioned location revving the engine of a yellow dirt bike. The male fled the residence as officers continued their investigation, locating the yellow dirt bike, as well as two additional dirt bikes and a moped from the rear of the residence. All four of the recreational vehicles were towed from the scene.

Community members with information relative to the storage of these recreational vehicles who wish to assist in these investigations anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner.

Massachusetts to recognize Memorial Day with series of virtual events

The Baker-Polito Administration will recognize Memorial Day this year in a virtual format, enabling the Commonwealth to continue to honor members of the military who have sacrificed for our country.

The series of events will kick off with virtual observances at the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke on Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22 respectively, followed by a coordinated statewide lighting of buildings, bridges, flags and parks on Sunday, May 24, and concluding with a Memorial Day program that will air on Monday, May 25.

"We are deeply grateful to all service members past and present who bravely served our country, and as we mark Memorial Day, we pay special tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to protect us and ensure our freedom," said Governor Charlie Baker. "During this difficult time, it is important that we honor and remember them, and share our gratitude and deep respect for their courage."

"This year we will honor the lives of the brave men and women who died while serving the country in a different, but equally special way," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "These virtual remembrances ensure we pay tribute to the Commonwealth's military community and our veterans, and we encourage all residents to participate as we honor their service and sacrifice."

"Memorial Day is sacred for our fellow service members, veterans and families – in particular, Gold Star Families – as we collectively remember those we've lost. Freedom is not

free, and the eternal valor of our fallen brothers and sisters allows us to live in peace,” said Veterans’ Services Secretary Francisco Ureña.

Overview of Memorial Day virtual events:

– Thursday, May 21 – Chelsea Soldiers’ Home virtual observance will be streamed on the Home’s Facebook page at 5pm Thursday. The program will be available on their Facebook page on demand following the stream.

<https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaSoldiersHome/>

– Friday, May 22 – Holyoke Soldiers’ Home virtual observance will be streamed on the Home’s Facebook page at 5pm Friday. The program will be available on their Facebook page on demand following the stream.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/HolyokeSoldiersHome/>

– Sunday, May 24 – Buildings, bridges, flags and parks to be illuminated in gold to honor Gold Star Families on the evening of Sunday, May 24 in observance of Memorial Day. The Department of Veterans’ Services has partnered with MassDOT, building managers and Veteran Service Organizations across the state to invite communities to light up prominent structures on the eve of Memorial Day. Locations listed below.

– Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day Ceremony, with speakers and musical performers from across the Commonwealth, remarks by Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito, Legislative leaders, and a special “Tribute to the Fallen” by the Massachusetts National Guard. This program will stream on mass.gov/MemorialDay and on participating TV stations and digital channels on Monday, May 25.

Visit mass.gov/MemorialDay and follow #MemorialDayMA on Facebook and Twitter for the latest information on this year’s virtual programs.

Buildings, bridges, flags, and parks to be illuminated Sunday Night, May 24:

Agawam – Military Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Agawam
Arlington Town Hall

Beverly Department of Public Works Building

Boston:

Boston City Hall

Government Center, Boston

Prudential Tower, Boston

Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, Boston

Cambridge City Hall

Chelsea:

Soldiers' Home in Chelsea

Locations throughout the community

Dracut Revolutionary Monument

Easton Veterans Memorial Park

Essex Town Hall

Fall River Government Center Building

Georgetown Town Hall

Holyoke – Soldiers' Home in Holyoke

Ipswich Town Hall

Kingston Town Hall

Lawrence Canal Street Bridge

Leominster Veterans Memorial Center

Ludlow Town Hall

Marshfield Veterans Memorial Park

Medford City Hall

Melrose Memorial Hall

New Bedford:

New Bedford City Hall

Elm Street Garage

Newbury Town Hall

Norton Town Hall

Palmer Town Hall

Pittsfield City Hall

Rowley Town Hall

Saugus Town Hall

Scituate Town Common

Sharon Fire Department

Stoneham Town Common

Swansea Town Hall

Watertown Flag Pole
Wenham Town Hall
West Newbury Town Hall
Westfield Town Green
Westford Town Hall
Winchendon – Military Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in
Winchendon
Woburn City Hall
Worcester – Kenneth F. Burns Memorial Bridge

This list is current as of 9am Thursday – additional communities will be listed on mass.gov/MemorialDay.

Former New Bedford Man Resentenced for 2013 Armed Bank Robbery

A former resident of New Bedford was resentenced today in federal court for a 2013 armed bank robbery.

David A. Frates, 41, was resentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns to 84 months in prison, five years of supervised release and ordered to pay restitution of \$1,098. Frates was originally sentenced in July 2016 to 11 years in prison after he was classified as a career offender. In 2018, Frates’s classification as a career offender was vacated by the First Circuit Court of Appeals, and he was ordered resentenced.

On Sept. 24, 2013, Frates, who was masked and armed with what appeared to be a semi-automatic firearm, entered a branch of the St. Anne’s Credit Union in New Bedford. Once inside,

Frates approached a teller, pointed the firearm at the teller and demanded the bank's money. The teller complied with Frates demands and he exited the bank. The bank's surveillance cameras and witness interviews identified Frates as a possible suspect. On Oct. 1, 2013, law enforcement recovered items involved in the robbery, including a black BB gun. Frates was later located and arrested for the robbery.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth G. Shine of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.

Mobile addiction services vans to provide treatment and needle exchange in New Bedford

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced the award of four contracts to provide Mobile Addiction Services Vans in Boston, Springfield, Worcester, Fall River, and New Bedford, that will serve individuals at high risk for overdose and other medical complications associated with substance use.

The mobile vans will provide treatment and basic clinical care including medications for addiction treatment, naloxone distribution and training, and syringe exchange. They will also offer primary care services such as wound care, vaccinations, screenings for communicable diseases including

HIV and tuberculosis, and referrals to behavioral health services and specialty care.

“The disproportionate impact on underserved communities and populations requires that we bring treatment and care to people who otherwise would not get it,” said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. “These vans will bring treatment directly into areas most affected and connect them to potentially lifesaving services.”

The goal is to provide care to individuals not receiving services through other means, initiate medication for addiction treatment, and provide connections to long-term, community-based care in an effort to prevent overdose deaths, support long-term recovery, and improve health and quality of life for vulnerable individuals.

“Offering low threshold, low barrier access to treatment, clinical care and harm reduction services is crucial,” said Deirdre Calvert, Director of DPH’s Bureau of Substance Addiction Services. “These vans will provide additional access and help us to connect with individuals we’ve been unable to reach before.”

DPH will provide each of the van service providers, Boston Health Care for the Homeless in Boston, Tapestry Health Systems in Springfield, UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, and Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR) in New Bedford, \$350,000 annually to provide these services. The Kraft Family Foundation has donated the vans in Worcester and Springfield. The anticipated start of Mobile Addiction services is July 1, 2020.

New Bedford police arrest three, seize fentanyl and crack cocaine

On May 19, New Bedford police officers arrested three people and seized more than 25 grams of fentanyl, 18 grams of crack cocaine, \$1,007, and drug paraphernalia.

Police officers executed a search warrant at 128 Sycamore St., Apt. 2, and seized 20 bags of fentanyl weighing more than 25 grams, a digital scale, packaging materials and \$895.

Juan Rivera Montilla, 25, was charged with trafficking, conspiracy, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Nathaneal Navarro-Ayala, 40, 128 Sycamore St., Apt. #2 was charged with trafficking and conspiracy. Detective Timothy Soares led the investigation.

Also that day, Detectives seized more than 18 grams of crack cocaine and \$112 after witnessing what appeared to be a street-level drug transaction on Hathaway St. near Madeira Ave. Erique R. Monteiro, 33, 71 S. 6th St. was arrested and charged with distribution, trafficking, and conspiracy.

Detective Nathan Pimental and Detective Kevin Barbosa led the arrests.

If you have any information on criminal activity in 2our community, the New Bedford Police Dept. wants to hear from you. You can leave an anonymous tip on our voicemail at (508) 991-6300 Ext. 1.

Boat Wrap Recycling for Dartmouth Residents to begin

It protected your boat all winter, now it's time to protect the environment.

White boat wrap is accepted through this drop-off program at the Dartmouth Transfer Station. Zippers and straps must be removed and discarded. Spray painted wrap cannot be accepted.

"Shrink wrap is a valuable recyclable plastic and it is a waste of our limited disposal resources at Crapo Hill to treat it as garbage. We are working with the Waterways Commission and the Harbormaster to alert individual boaters of this win-win solution to the annual shrink wrap disposal problem." said David Hickox, Director of Public Works in the Town of Dartmouth.

Dartmouth residents may take boat wrap to the Dartmouth Transfer Station, May 18 through June 30. A transfer station permit is required. There is a container for boat wrap only. The Dartmouth Transfer Station is open Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Dartmouth residents who would like to obtain a transfer station permit, or a day pass, may call the Dartmouth DPW at (508) 999-0740.

The boat wrap collected through this program can be recycled into a variety of items including plastic pallets, composite lumber, and plastic film used to cover greenhouses.

For more information, contact the Refuse District's recycling office by phone at (508) 979-1493 or by email at Marissa@gnbrrmdistrict.org.

New Bedford officials report three additional COVID-19 related deaths on Wednesday

New Bedford officials reported three additional COVID-19 related death on Wednesday bringing the total to 52.

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 24 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Wednesday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 1,582, **up from 1,552 on Tuesday.**

Greater New Bedford has six operation COVID-19 testing sites; two in New Bedford, three in Dartmouth, and one in Fairhaven. Details on each location and list of COVID-19 symptoms **here.**

38 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River, according to the Mayor's Office. This brings the total in Fall River to 1,042. The death toll from the coronavirus in Fall River remains at 22. Full details **here.**

With Governor Baker outlining his plan for reopening the state's economy Monday, COVID-19 numbers continue to trend in a positive direction overall. Massachusetts has seen 873 more positive cases in the last 24 hours. A decrease from the previous 24 hour period. Full details **here.**