

2020 Buzzards Bay swim canceled due to ongoing concerns over the coronavirus

The following was posted by The Buzzards Bay Coalition:

"The Buzzards Bay Coalition has announced that the 2020 Buzzards BaySwim will be canceled due to the unprecedented and still-evolving conditions presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The health and well-being of our participants, volunteers, emergency personnel, staff, and our community is our top priority," Coalition President Mark Rasmussen said in a message to this year's swimmers. "Under the current circumstances, and based upon the guidance of public health officials, we concluded that this year's event cannot take place safely.

The event, which has been run annually since 1993, brings hundreds of participants to New Bedford each June to swim across New Bedford Harbor to Fort Phoenix State Park in Fairhaven, where the event ends with a beach party brunch. Last year's event raised more than \$187,000 to support education, conservation, water quality monitoring, and advocacy work.

"I'm sure that you share our disappointment in this year's cancellation of the swim, but I hope you take solace in the fact that your early fundraising has already contributed more than \$25,000 to sustain Bay protection efforts," Rasmussen told swimmers. "In the current environment, those funds are more critical than ever to continuing our water quality monitoring, land conservation, public education and clean water advocacy work."

The Coalition has other events planned later this summer and

fall. The organization will field a team of runners for the Falmouth Road Race, which will be held as a “virtual” run on August 16, 2020. And on Sunday, October 4, the Coalition will host the 2020 Watershed Ride—an event in which cyclists ride one of three overlapping courses, the longest of which stretches 100 miles from Sakonnet Point to Woods Hole.

Registered swimmers have multiple options due to the cancellation, including deferring registration until the 2021 swim or transferring their registration to participate in the upcoming Watershed Ride. Full details are included in the memo to registrants.”

New Bedford Census Help Centers accessible by phone

While there have been many changes during the COVID-19 state of emergency, the importance of filling out the 2020 Census remains a top priority to ensure New Bedford is counted in the federal census.

The New Bedford Census Help Centers have gone virtual, and will now be accessible by phone, so that city residents can still receive support and assistance if they need help filling out their census forms.

By filling out the census and including everyone in their household, residents ensure their city receives the money and resources the city deserves for the health care system, schools, public safety, roads and bridges and so many other elements that make New Bedford strong.

With in-person Census Help Centers closed for the time being,

help is still available by phone. Anyone who needs help with or has questions about their census forms may call the following centers at the times listed:

- CEDC – 508-979-4684 : Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Council on Aging – 508-961-3100: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Immigrants' Assistance Center – 508-996-8113: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- New Bedford Public Schools – 508-997-4511 ext. 14601: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- New Bedford Public Library – 508-991-6275: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- YWCA – 508-525-6517: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The New Bedford Census 2020 Complete Count Committee is also making direct outreach phone calls to city residents to remind them of the importance of the census. These calls are made only to encourage you to fill out the census. Residents will NOT be asked to provide any personal details, including Social Security numbers or financial information such as credit card numbers. Residents should NEVER provide this information to anyone on the phone.

More information about the 2020 Census and New Bedford Counts, the City's 2020 Census effort, is available at www.newbedford-ma.gov/census.

Massachusetts reports lowest one-day COVID-19 count since

April 5

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update



On May 4, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,000 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 69,087. This is a decrease from Sunday's 1,824 reported cases. 1,000 cases is the lowest single-day count since April 5 when 765 cases were reported.

86 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported on Monday bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 4,090. As of 4 pm today, 324,268 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 9,622 new tests since yesterday. 86 deaths is the lowest single-day count since April 7 when 67 deaths were reported.

As of April 28, 27,939 individuals in Massachusetts were subject to quarantine with 17,659 no longer in quarantine. 10,280 individuals are undergoing monitoring/under quarantine.

New Bedford Coronavirus Update

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 67 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Monday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 779, **up from 712 on Saturday**. Two additional COVID-19 related deaths were also reported bringing the total to 21 in the city. New Bedford does not report COVID-19 data on Sundays.

Fall River Coronavirus Update

15 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 601. Full details **here**.

Two more COVID-19 related deaths reported in New Bedford on Monday

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 67 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Monday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 779, **up from 712 on Saturday**. Two additional COVID-19 related deaths were also reported bringing the total to 21 in the city. New Bedford does not report COVID-19 data on Sundays.

On May 3, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,824 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 68,087. This is a decrease from Saturday's 1,952 reported cases. Full details **here**.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts and Congressman Joe Kennedy III are calling for an independent investigation into a Friday night uprising at the ICE detention center at the Bristol County House of Correction. Full details **here**.

32 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River. This brings the total in Fall River to 586. Full details **here**.

Massachusetts State Troopers respond to Rt. 93 Boston accident; deploy defibrillator

According to MSP, Massachusetts State Troopers Joe Cordes, Miguel McGovern, and Joe Page, all from the Ted Williams Tunnel Barracks, responded to a crash on Route 93 southbound in Boston last night. They found the operator unresponsive behind the wheel and had to break the window and remove him from the vehicle,

Finding no pulse and suspecting that the man was suffering from a medical condition that led to the crash, the Troopers began CPR and deployed their issued Automatic External Defibrillator.

As the Troopers awaited the arrival of emergency medical personnel, they were joined by the hero of the Day, Alexa Sequira, an emergency room nurse at Winchester Hospital. Sequira was heading home after her own long day at work when she came upon the scene and stopped to assist the Troopers. Their combined efforts were successful, as they were able to revive the man and assist in his transport to Boston Medical Center.

The man was awake and alert at the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

New Bedford Creative awards 3rd EyE Unlimited first-ever “Art is Everywhere” grant

New Bedford Creative has awarded 3rd EyE Unlimited and partners the first-ever Art is Everywhere grant program as part of a pilot to accelerate arts-based economic development in New Bedford. The award includes \$50,000 to create and implement “Your New Bedford,” a project that deepens connections between neighborhoods and downtown, builds partnerships between cultural organizations and community groups, and strengthens the creative economy and arts ecosystem. The grant program is made possible with funding from MassDevelopment and the Barr Foundation.

3rd EyE Unlimited’s project for the Art is Everywhere Grant, “Your New Bedford,” intends to demonstrate that the New Bedford arts scene is more than its rich whaling and abolitionist histories – it is also a hothouse for inclusive and cutting-edge youth-oriented culture. Each “Your New Bedford” event will be designed in collaboration with community partners who are attuned to the needs and resources of local residents, and will feature music, dance and movement, visual arts and education, and a “community corner” – a time for dialogue about local needs and challenges.

Responding directly to COVID-19 impacts on the arts and the New Bedford community more broadly, 3rd EyE Unlimited has retooled and reimagined the original “Your New Bedford” six-part monthly program series in several ways. The group is shifting from neighborhood-based pop-up events in community settings to an interactive virtual format, providing paying work for local artists whose incomes have been directly affected by the pandemic, diversifying artist revenue generation strategies, and addressing the social isolation

felt by many residents at this time.

“3rd EyE Unlimited is honored and humbled to be the recipient of this first Art is Everywhere grant,” said Keri Cox, President of 3rd EyE Unlimited. “During the 20-plus years of 3rd EyE’s existence, we have witnessed and lived through many changes in our city and the diverse communities that comprise it. Our mission since our founding has been to shed light on the vibrant cultural expressions that often go unrecognized, and particularly those of young people who will play a key role in reshaping and reimagining the New Bedford of the future, which is especially relevant now during and after the pandemic.”

“A thriving community is more than just what’s seen on the surface, it’s also what is not immediately visible,” said Your New Bedford’s Project Director Peter Lonelle Walker. “The New Bedford that visitors see, particularly in our revitalized historic downtown, is fueled by the influence, expression and culture of the communities and neighborhoods that lie outside the tourist map. It’s harder to connect right now, and our goal is to create a platform that empowers and showcases our communities and neighborhoods, celebrating the contributions we and our neighbors have made and will continue to make.”

3rd EyE Unlimited and Community Partners Build Bridges

3rd EyE Unlimited is known for their signature annual creative arts festival in downtown New Bedford, the 3rd EyE Open, an effort to build bridges between the neighborhoods and downtown, and between young people and the business sectors. Their project “Your New Bedford” includes a core team of artists who will collaborate with a dedicated roster of community partners. This team includes dancers Terrence Bboy Swift-T Mills, Amanda Eyssallenne, and Tatiania “Tati” Morales, arts educator Samia Walker, artist Mandy Fraser, photographer and performer Darnel Staley, writer and public speaker Tyson Moultrie, and music producer Peter Lonelle Walker.

Barr Foundation and MassDevelopment Collaborate in Gateway Cities

In late 2019, the Barr Foundation awarded a \$500,000 grant to MassDevelopment to create new arts-based programming for Gateway Cities through its Transformative Development Initiative.

MassDevelopment is using a portion of those funds to support a yearlong planning phase in New Bedford with key community partners to create a strategy for enhancing the local arts and culture infrastructure as a mechanism for supporting economic growth. The Art is Everywhere grant program is one component of this multitiered planning phase.

The local team working in partnership with MassDevelopment and the Barr Foundation includes the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, the Co-Creative Center, New Bedford Creative, and New Bedford Economic Development Council. As a program for Gateway Cities, the Transformative Development Initiative has been working to respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19 in these communities, especially with respect to vulnerable businesses, including artists, that are losing income during this challenging time.

In January 2020, the Art is Everywhere grant opportunity was announced, with applications due February 21. Once the pandemic arrived, the review committee decided to move forward with the call for proposals providing the winning entrant could demonstrate how its project would help support artists and the arts community during this difficult stage.

In addition to the cash award made possible by MassDevelopment and the Barr Foundation, 3rd EyE Unlimited will receive a one-year membership to the Co-Creative Center, the opportunity to participate in professional development training organized by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts's Creative Commonwealth Initiative, New Bedford Creative, and New Bedford Economic Development Council, and limited

technical assistance from MassDevelopment as needed to help with project implementation.

In spite of half the usual rate of traffic, Massachusetts deadly crashes doubled for April

New data from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation showed that fatality rates on Massachusetts roads doubled for the month of April even though there are 50% fewer people driving during the pandemic.

“With 50% less traffic recorded on major highways, 28 individuals died in crashes, compared with a total number of 27 individuals dying as the result of motor vehicle crashes in April 2019,” said the MassDOT.

The cause? With fewer people on the road drivers are speeding.

This has caught the attention of both local and state police and the Massachusetts State Police stated that with these alarming statistics will come extra patrols to catch these violators.

Acushnet Police offer “Military Appreciation Patches”; proceeds to benefit “Home Base”

“As we have entered the Month of May, the Acushnet Police Department would like to announce that officers will be donning our brand NEW “Military Appreciation Patches”!

Officers have already made their donations and sewed them on their uniforms to show their support for our military heroes!

The Acushnet Police Association will be selling the patches to the public beginning now. The price will be \$12 per patch with a limit of two per order, as supplies are limited.

All proceeds generated from the sales will be donated to Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Program for the amazing work they do with our veterans!

We hope you like the new patches and we look forward to making a generous donation to an amazing cause!

If you would like to purchase a patch, please send checks USPS made payable to the Acushnet Police Association

Please Address the envelope:

Acushnet Police Association

Military Appreciation Patch

64 Middle Rd

Acushnet, MA 02743

Also please include a return address!”-Acushnet Police Department.

Thank you!

Kennedy calls for \$4,000 direct payments for Americans who earn less than \$100,000 a year

Colin A. Young

State House News Service

There is a “disconnect” between the White House and everyday Americans who are dealing with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic while trying to keep themselves and their families healthy, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III said Sunday. Asked Sunday about reports that the White House plans to pause further stimulus talks, Kennedy said it is important to listen to the concerns of people who are pushing to re-open states’ economies.

“They need help. The quest to re-open this country is coming from families that need help, that want to go back to work, that are concerned about making ends meet,” he said during an interview on WCVB’s On The Record. “We need to make sure those concerns are addressed so people can still focus on their health and make sure that we get in front of the spread of this virus.”

Kennedy said he’s been calling for a direct payment of \$4,000 to every American who earns less than \$100,000 a year “so they can afford to pay their bills, pay their credit card bill, their rent, their mortgage.” He said the next federal stimulus package should also include more money for small businesses, the health care sector, and state and municipal governments.

Massachusetts passes four thousand COVID-19 related deaths

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update



On May 3, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,824 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 68,087. This is a decrease from Saturday's 1,952 reported cases.

158 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported on Sunday bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 4,004. As of 4 pm today, 314,646 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 15,652 new tests since yesterday – the highest single-day total yet.



As of April 28, 27,939 individuals in Massachusetts were subject to quarantine with 17,659 no longer in quarantine. 10,280 individuals are undergoing monitoring/under quarantine.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts and Congressman Joe Kennedy III are calling for an independent investigation into a Friday night uprising at the ICE detention center at the Bristol County House of Correction. Full details [here](#).

New Bedford Coronavirus Update

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office Saturday reported 87 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 712, **up from 625 on Thursday**. COVID-19 related deaths remained at 19 in the city. New Bedford health officials do not report COVID-19 related information on Sundays.

Fall River Coronavirus Update

28 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River. This brings the total in Fall River to 586. Full details **[here](#)**.