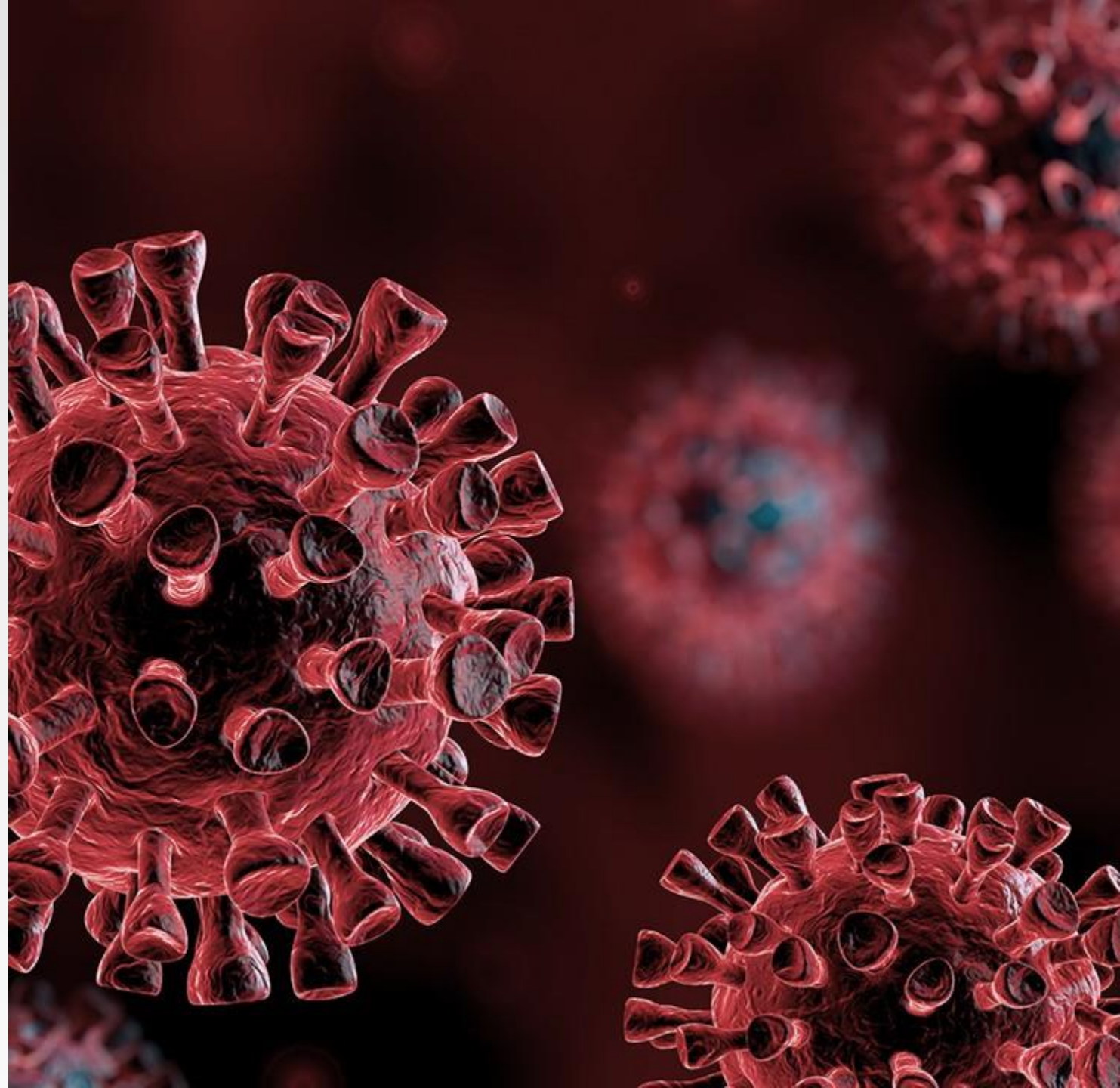


# Sunderland's Response to COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020



# Communication

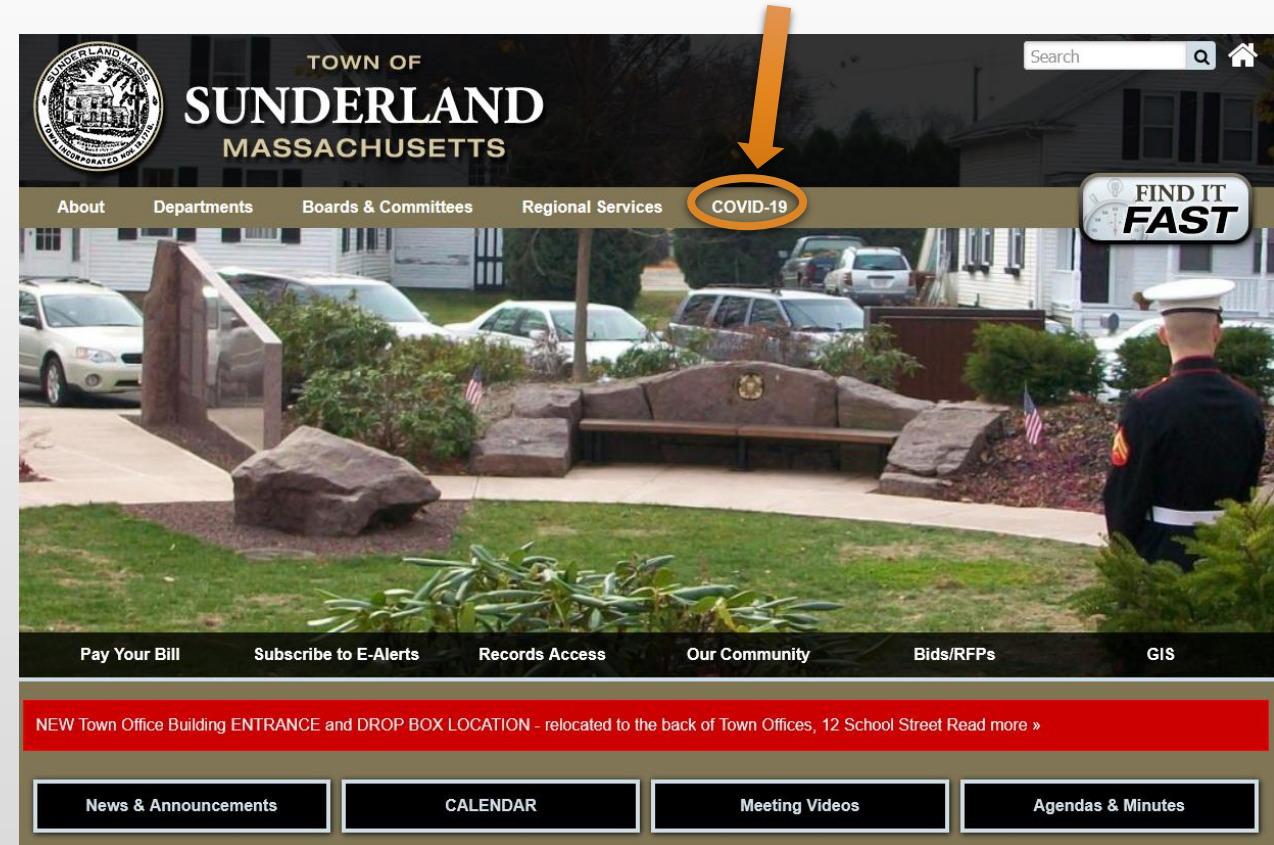
# Selectboard & Board of Health

**Regular topic of discussion at Selectboard and Board of Health meetings, including:**

- Emergency orders
- Financial implications
- Return of students (college and K-12)
- Public spaces

# Town Website

The Town website has a dedicated page for COVID-19 ([www.townofsunderland.us/covid-19](http://www.townofsunderland.us/covid-19)) that is updated regularly as new information becomes available.





# Variable Message Board Communication



Deployment of the Town's Variable Message Sign Board to remind residents to stay safe and where to find more information.

# CodeRED Alerts



Important announcements are sent out to residents via the Town's CodeRED system.

Residents are encouraged to enroll by texting SUNDERLAND to 99411 or visiting:

[www.townofsunderland.us/home/pages/codered](http://www.townofsunderland.us/home/pages/codered)

# Regular Communication

The Town is in regular communication with a number of groups, including:

- Coordination with managers of apartment complexes regarding safety precautions
- The Frontier Regional Emergency Dispensing Site Team to develop plans for the distribution of a vaccine when it becomes available
- The University of Massachusetts to discuss the campus' plan and coordinate regarding off-campus students
- Discussions with other towns about pandemic response
- Frontier Regional School District administration and the four district towns


# Assistance to Residents & Businesses



# Emergency Rental Assistance for Residents

## Emergency Rental Assistance to income-eligible residents

- CPA-funded at Town Meeting
- \$50,000 available to residents who have trouble paying rent due to COVID-19



### Emergency Rental Assistance for Sunderland Residents

Through the Town of Sunderland Community Preservation Act funds, help is available to help tenants living in Sunderland, MA who have lost income related to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and are facing hardship paying rent.

**Have you lost income because of the COVID-19 crisis?**  
**Can't pay your rent or utilities?**

**You may qualify for rental assistance. Funds are limited, call today!**




**Eligible households:**

- Must be renters in Sunderland
- Has reduced income due to COVID-19
- Households earning less than 80% of Median Income (post COVID-19)
- Section-8, MRVP, and/or HomeBASE recipients are NOT eligible

**Maximum Income Limit (100% Of AMI):**  
Includes combined household incomes:

HH Size	AMI
1 HH	\$59,570
2 HH	\$68,080
3 HH	\$76,590
4 HH	\$85,400
5 HH	\$91,908
6 HH	\$98,716

For more information and to see if you qualify contact,  
Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority at  
[www.fcrhra.org](http://www.fcrhra.org)  
413-863-9782 ext 151



# Assistance to Businesses

## TOWN OF SUNDERLAND

Office of the Selectboard  
12 School Street, Sunderland, MA 01375  
PHONE: (413) 665-1441 Ext. 1  
FAX: (413) 665-1466



### EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING GROCERY RETAIL

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the virus that caused the Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sunderland Selectboard has determined that the threat of COVID-19 poses a present, real and imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Sunderland and as such declared a State of Emergency in the Town of Sunderland on March 15, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, both restaurants and grocery stores are considered essential businesses;

**NOW THEREFORE**, to effectively operate and provide essential services as described above, effective Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

- 1) Zoning and/or licensing requirements that would otherwise restrict or prohibit the sale of grocery items from restaurants or cafes are temporarily suspended until further notice or until the state of emergency is rescinded.
- 2) In order to sell grocery items as part of a pickup or delivery service, businesses that have not previously sold direct to consumer grocery items must provide a detailed operations and safety plan for the storage and distribution of groceries to the Selectboard of the Town of Sunderland for review and approval.
  - a. Restaurants selling grocery item pursuant to this order may only sell pre-packed or pre-bagged grocery items on a take-out or delivery basis.
  - b. Restaurants shall create menus available online to permit customers to order grocery items online or via telephone prior to collecting or receiving such items.
  - c. This order does not allow restaurants to operate as brick and mortar grocery stores.
- 3) This order will be reviewed no later than August 1, 2020 if the state of emergency and this order are still in effect at that time.

Scott A. Bergeron, Chair    David J. Pierce, Vice Chair    Thomas D. Fydenkevez, Clerk

## TOWN OF SUNDERLAND

Office of the Selectboard  
12 School Street, Sunderland, MA 01375  
PHONE: (413) 665-1441 Ext. 1  
FAX: (413) 665-1466



### EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING OUTDOOR DINING

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the virus that caused the Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sunderland Selectboard has determined that the threat of COVID-19 poses a present, real and imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Sunderland and as such declared a State of Emergency in the Town of Sunderland on March 15, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, both restaurants and grocery stores are considered essential businesses;

**NOW THEREFORE**, to effectively operate and provide essential services as described above, effective Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

- 1) Zoning and/or licensing requirements that would otherwise restrict or prohibit outdoor dining at restaurants or cafes are temporarily suspended until further notice or until the state of emergency is rescinded.
- 2) In order to provide outdoor dining restaurants that have not previously served food outdoors must provide a detailed operations and safety plan, including the proposed location of the outdoor dining and seating capacity, to the Selectboard of the Town of Sunderland for review and approval.
  - a. The dining area must be appurtenant and contiguous to the restaurant property.
  - b. Food-service personnel must constantly clean the dining area of wastepaper, garbage and other trash. Covered trash receptacles must be provided in close proximity to the dining area and must be emptied as needed to prevent overflowing.
  - c. The plan must adhere to social distancing protocols and other safety standards.
- 3) This order will be reviewed no later than August 1, 2020 if the state of emergency and this order are still in effect at that time.

Scott A. Bergeron, Chair    David J. Pierce, Vice Chair    Thomas D. Fydenkevez, Clerk

- Emergency order to allow restaurants to sell groceries on May 18, 2020
  - Extended through November 1
- Emergency order to allow expanded outdoor dining on May 26, 2020
  - Extended through November 1

# **Sunderland Action Steps to Stop the Spread**

# State of Emergency Declaration

## TOWN OF SUNDERLAND



BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
12 School Street, Sunderland, MA 01375  
PHONE: (413) 665-1441  
FAX: (413) 665-1086

### State of Emergency Declaration to Respond to COVID-19

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Selectboard of the Town of Sunderland, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of Sunderland; and

**WHEREAS**, the Selectboard of the Town of Sunderland has determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Sunderland; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Sunderland; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency

expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the community has exhausted, or can be expected to exhaust local resources/mutual aid assistance, and cannot handle the emergency without state/federal assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Selectboard of the Town of Sunderland recommended that a state of emergency be declared in the Town of Sunderland.


**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the Selectboard of the Town of Sunderland, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of March 16, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of Sunderland. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment, or that of the Emergency Management Director that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott A. Bergeron, Sunderland Selectboard Chair

3/15/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Pierce, Sunderland Selectboard Vice Chair

3/15/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas D. Fydenkevez, Sunderland Selectboard Clerk

3/15/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## On March 15, 2020, the Selectboard declared a State of Emergency

- Allowed the Selectboard to take emergency actions
- Access to emergency funding

# Public Buildings, Spaces, and Meetings

On March 17, 2020, public buildings were closed for public access

- Staff continued to work on-site and remotely
- Essential services continued via phone and online
- No change to emergency services (police, fire, and ambulance)

## CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC



To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, as of March 17, 2020, this building is temporarily closed to the public. Town departments are still working and can be reached at:

Department	Phone	Email
Selectboard	413-665-1441 Ext. 1	<a href="mailto:selectmen@townofsunderland.us">selectmen@townofsunderland.us</a>
Town Administrator	413-512-5820	<a href="mailto:townadmin@townofsunderland.us">townadmin@townofsunderland.us</a>
Board of Health	413-665-1441 Ext. 6	<a href="mailto:boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us">boardofhealth@townofsunderland.us</a>
Emergency Management	413-244-5460	<a href="mailto:emd@townofsunderland.us">emd@townofsunderland.us</a>
Town Clerk	413-665-1441 Ext. 3	<a href="mailto:townclerk@townofsunderland.us">townclerk@townofsunderland.us</a>
Treasurer/Collector	413-665-1441 Ext. 2	<a href="mailto:treascollector@townofsunderland.us">treascollector@townofsunderland.us</a>
Board of Assessors	413-665-1441 Ext. 5	<a href="mailto:assessors@townofsunderland.us">assessors@townofsunderland.us</a>
Building Inspector	413-665-1433	<a href="mailto:building@townofsunderland.us">building@townofsunderland.us</a>
Library	413-665-2642	<a href="mailto:director@sunderlandpubliclibrary.org">director@sunderlandpubliclibrary.org</a>
Highway Department	413-665-1460	<a href="mailto:highway@townofsunderland.us">highway@townofsunderland.us</a>
Fire Department	413-665-2465	<a href="mailto:fire@townofsunderland.us">fire@townofsunderland.us</a>
Police Department	413-665-7036 413-625-8200 (Dispatch)	<a href="mailto:police@townofsunderland.us">police@townofsunderland.us</a>

For **EMERGENCY** police, fire, and ambulance service, dial 9-1-1.

For more information, please visit [www.townofsunderland.us](http://www.townofsunderland.us); [www.mass.gov/coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/coronavirus); and [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



# Town Meeting



## Special precautions were taken for Annual Town Meeting:

- Delayed until June 6, 2020 to ensure resident safety
- Held outdoors
- Socially-distanced seating



# Elections

Safety precautions for June 5 local election, primary election, and early voting

- Encouraged voting by mail
- Safety precautions for in-person voting
- Larger drop-box for ballots (and other town business)



# Public Library



**EVEN THOUGH OUR BUILDING IS  
CLOSED**

**SUNDERLAND PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
IS HERE TO HELP**

**413-665-2642**

- Help accessing our eBooks, Streaming Video, and other Digital Resources
- Resources for dealing with the impact of COVID-19
- Connections to Community Resources
- Home Activities for the whole family
- Friendly Conversation

Library continued to offer resources while closed to the public

- Books available for pickup
- Computer use available by appointment
- Sanitization of books and computers between use

# Public parks & playgrounds

Sunderland Elementary School playground and basketball courts closed to the public on April 6, 2020

- Reopened with appropriate signage on June 15, 2020

## Sunderland Elementary School Playground

**PLAY HERE - PLAY SAFE - HAVE FUN!**

- Playground equipment is not sanitized
- Maintain recommended social distancing of 6' with non-family members
- Wash/sanitize hands before/after use
- Refrain from group activities
- Wear masks if you cannot social distance

*Please Follow Department of Public Health Guidelines*

## Riverside Park

**PLAY HERE - PLAY SAFE - HAVE FUN!**

- Equipment is not sanitized
- Maintain recommended social distancing of 6' with non-family members
- Organized group activities by permission only (Contact: 413-665-1441 x8)
- Wear masks if you cannot social distance

# Fiscal Actions

# Fiscal Responsibility

Proposed a FY21 operating budget that recognized financial uncertainty caused by COVID-19

governor.com  
MASSACHUSETTS  
Wednesday, April 15, 2020 | DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE AT 7  
**'Sobering' estimates mean budgeting with billions less**  
Recovery timing, trajectory of the virus, and the future will hold for us," Heffernan said. The secretary said he drew hope from the fact that the legislature passed a letter to House Speaker Robert DeLeo last week suggesting the Legislature meet month-to-month on critical human services. Gov. Charlie Baker has dismissed the idea of turning to

**MASS LIVE**  
News  
**'Deteriorating economic outlook' predicts \$6 billion Massachusetts state budget shortfall**  
Posted May 19, 2020

**SHNS**  
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE  
Senate: ADJOURNED 'til next session  
**April Tax Collections Plunge by \$2.3 Billion**  
*Borrowing Eyed to Fill Growing Hole in State Budget*  
Michael P. Norton | 5/5/20 6:43 PM

# Fiscal Responsibility



Received CARES Act funds for emergency expenses (PPE, cleaning supplies and services, remote working, etc.)

- Sunderland eligible for \$323,000 in emergency relief in specific categories of unbudgeted expenses



# Fiscal Responsibility

Received COVID-19 Health Response Funds from FRCOG for additional hours for the Sunderland Public Health Nurse to conduct contact tracing



Franklin Regional  
Council of Governments

# Fiscal Responsibility



\$9.6 million in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESFP) grants awarded to the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research (OGR) from the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program award to support costs to Police and Fire department operations**

**Town of Sunderland COVID-19 webpage:**

<https://www.townofsunderland.us/covid-19>

**Mass.gov COVID-19 webpage:**

<https://www.mass.gov/covid19>

**CDC COVID-19 webpage:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

**Franklin County COVID-19 dashboard:**

<https://www.publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data/Franklin>

**UMass COVID-19 dashboard:**

<https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/dashboard>

## Online Resources