

MARCH 26, 2020



# THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S

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## City Council hold first virtual meeting regarding coronavirus

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston City Council held its first ever virtual hearing regarding COVID-19 on Monday, March 23 using the video conferencing program Zoom.

The hearing, which was held by the City Council Committee on Public Health and chaired by new District 5 Councilor Ricardo

Arroyo, invited a gamut of people from professors to nurses to speak and answer questions related to the coronavirus.

Zoom's platform allowed panelists to use PowerPoints for their presentations if need be, as well as for people to ask questions. The purpose of this hearing was to

(MEETING Pg. 5)

## Rosales Partners receives Bulfinch Award for work

By Dan Murphy

Rosales Partners was recently awarded a 2020 Bulfinch Award by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art in the Historic Preservation category for its role as lead architect on the \$300-million-plus restoration of the Longfellow Bridge.

"The Longfellow Bridge was restored and enhanced with the highest level of historic preser-

vation integrity," wrote Miguel Rosales, president and principal of the Boston-based architectural firm that bears his surname "It is very rewarding that the landmark bridge continues to win top national and international awards in the fields of architecture, historic preservation and bridge engineering."

The iconic bridge that spans the Charles River from Charles (AWARD Pg. 5)



Deborah Portman, a volunteer and Jamaica Plain resident; Jonathan Greeley of the Boston Planning and Development Agency; and Brian Norton of the city's Office of Workforce Development distributes pamphlets on the coronavirus around the area.

## Walsh undertakes COVID-19 educational campaign

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Martin Walsh undertook an extensive educational campaign on the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic Saturday, with numerous volunteers distributing literature in seven languages

door to door throughout the city.

The seven-page, multilingual pamphlet that was disseminated contains explanations of common practices to avoid contracting the virus, such as frequent hand-washing with soap for at least 20 seconds and "social distancing" by

keeping at least six feet away from others when IN PUBLIC, and lists emergency meal sites citywide. The literature also encourages citizens to only contact 9-1-1 only in cases of medical emergency,

(CAMPAIGN Pg. 6)

### BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Dear Neighbors,

We hope that you are all well – taking care of yourselves and others as we make our way through this challenging time.

We are staying the course at the BHCA as so many of our

non-profit neighbors and local businesses are. In our eblast, we are publishing daily updates as needed with current information from the City and State, with links to important sites to help each other. If you would like to

receive our BHCA News eblast, write to us at [info@bhcivic.org](mailto:info@bhcivic.org) and we will add you to our list. Our office is open virtually and our phones are connected, so feel free to call at any time if you have

(BHCA, Pg. 5)



Photo by Ian MacLellan

The Longfellow Bridge under a night sky.

# Baker, Walsh continue to update residents as stay at home advisory is in effect

By Lauren Bennett

On Monday, both Governor Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh provided updates to the public regarding the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

After several states have issued what they call “shelter in place” or “stay at home” orders, Governor Baker directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay at home advisory that began Tuesday, March 24th at noon and will last until Tuesday, April 7th at noon. Residents are advised to stay at home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary activities during the advisory. He also said that those over the age of 70 or who have underlying health conditions should especially limit social interactions.

The order also limits gatherings to 10 people during the state of emergency, a change from the previous 25 that were allowed.

“This includes community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, and any similar event or activity that brings together more than 10 persons in any confined indoor or outdoor space,” according to a release from the state. Gatherings of 10 or more people in an outdoor space such as a park or athletic field are not prohibited by the order.

“The Baker-Polito Administration does not believe Massachusetts residents can be confined to their homes and does not support home confinement for public health reasons,” the release states, though some people have written to the governor asking him to put a stricter order in place.

Governor Baker also issued an emergency order “requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide ‘COVID-19 Essential Services’ to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of Tuesday, March 24th at noon until Tuesday, April 7th

at noon,” the release states. A list of designated businesses that are allowed to remain open can be found at [mass.gov](http://mass.gov).

Businesses that are not on this list are encouraged to continue their work remotely, the governor said. Restaurants are permitted to continue offering food for takeout and delivery as long as social distancing protocols are followed.

“People will not lose access to food or medicine,” Baker assured residents. Additionally, he said a goal for the state is to be testing people for the virus “at a significantly higher level.”

As of press time, nine people have died in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including two Boston residents.

Mayor Walsh spoke to Boston residents on Monday afternoon as well, announcing that one Boston Police officer and one EMT have tested positive.

The pause on nonessential construction began on Monday, Walsh said, as did daycare closures statewide with the exception of some that remain open for the children of healthcare professionals and first responders.

Walsh once again thanked the healthcare workers for being on the frontlines and helping those who are sick, and reiterated that practicing physical and social distancing is of the utmost importance to stop the spread of the virus and not overwhelm hospitals.

“There is no reason to panic buy or hoard items,” he also told residents, adding that Boston water is safe to drink and people should not be hoarding plastic bottles of water from the store.

As the governor said, restaurants can continue to offer takeout and delivery, and the City is offering a guidebook on how to set it up for those who do not currently offer it. A directory for residents of which restaurants are open and offering takeout and delivery will also be available, the

Mayor said.

Walsh reminded those waiting for takeout to practice social distancing and to not gather in large groups.

Walsh said that the city will continue to be in touch with seniors, the homeless population, students who need free lunch, and other vulnerable residents. He also said that there is now a team of experts reviewing emergency management plans for the city.

“This is uncharted territory,” Walsh said, adding that he is “grateful” for the support of this team.

Boston Public Schools remain closed, and Walsh said that around 15,000 Chromebooks have been distributed to students across the city so they can continue their learning from home. Additionally, free meals for students are being distributed at 70 locations across the city.

Walsh also said that homeless shelters remain open, and the city is erecting facilities for screening, testing, and isolating patients, including the first tent that opened on Saturday afternoon with room for 18 individuals.

“To date, no one has the coronavirus in the homeless population,” Walsh said. The city is also hiring candidates for homeless councilors, public safety officers, and more.

For seniors, Walsh said that the Age Strong Commission “is here for you,” and is conducting phone calls in multiple languages to keep seniors up to date.

Walsh encouraged families experiencing financial hardship to reach out to their banks, as many are putting products and information out there about reworking mortgages and working out payment plans for credit cards.

He is also looking for donations of gloves and masks from nail salons, construction workers, and other businesses who use that equipment, as hospitals are

in dire need of these supplies.

“These are extraordinarily difficult times,” Walsh said. “We’re going to see numbers increase because of testing made available.”

Walsh said that there is no “safe date” where everything will return to normal, as no one can predict what will happen. He said that he hopes that cancelling the St. Patrick’s Day parade as well as postponing the marathon will make an impact and help prevent the spread of the virus, and reiterated the importance of staying inside and away from others so life can return to normal as soon as possible.

## Baker Update March 24

On Tuesday afternoon, Baker announced that the state is continuing to ramp up testing capabilities, including adding 10 additional labs in addition to the state lab and other private labs that have been processing COVID-19 tests. As of press time, nine people in the Commonwealth have died from the virus.

As of press time, Baker said that almost 9000 tests have been completed in Massachusetts, up from 6,000 on Sunday.

Baker advised people who are showing flu-like symptoms to first contact their healthcare provider before going anywhere. “We need to keep people who don’t need to be in our hospitals and medical facilities out,” he said. The state has expanded telehealth services to make it easier for people to call and video chat with healthcare providers, as well as made it easier for nurses who are licensed in other states to work in Massachusetts.

As of Tuesday morning, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has made 89 deliveries of personal protection supplies, including over 750,000 masks, face shields, masks, and pairs of gloves from the strategic national stockpile. He also said that the dental community has donated masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer as well, and similar outreach to other communities like the construction community have gone out too.

Baker said that the only things people should be going out for are groceries, medications, and for some fresh air, but physical distancing should be maintained.

The state has also announced its own text alert system. Baker said that while the state is not looking to inundate people with even more information, they felt it was important that people are getting information from trusted sources, and only one or two notifications would be sent out per day.

The service would provide latest news and updates, public health tips, information on social and physical distancing, personal hygiene, and more. To sign up for the service, text COVIDMA to 888-777.

“It’s a great way to stay in touch with the Commonwealth,” Baker said.

When asked about relief for rent and mortgage payments, Baker said that it is hard for the state to know what to do without clarity from the federal government. He said that it is not possible to foreclose or evict without going to court, and courts are currently closed. He said they are talking about what the state could do on this matter, but he said in MA, under existing state law, it takes 90 days to cure on mortgages and 60 days on rent, and this law will be enforced.

The Baker administration also announced new legislation that would cut down on some of the “bureaucratic processes for local governments,” Baker said.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said that the package includes things like giving local governments more flexibility on collecting taxes from taxpayers, working with project proponents on local projects and permitting processes, and giving local businesses who are offering takeout and delivery services permission to include beer or wine in a sealed container with meals. For more information on the legislation, visit [mass.gov](http://mass.gov).

“We know that we will all do better when we work together,” Polito said.

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Larceny - Shoplifting  
03/16/20 - A Charles Street market reported a male suspect stole a bottle of alcohol (unknown

brand) and fled on foot at about 12:16 p.m. A surveillance video of the incident is available.

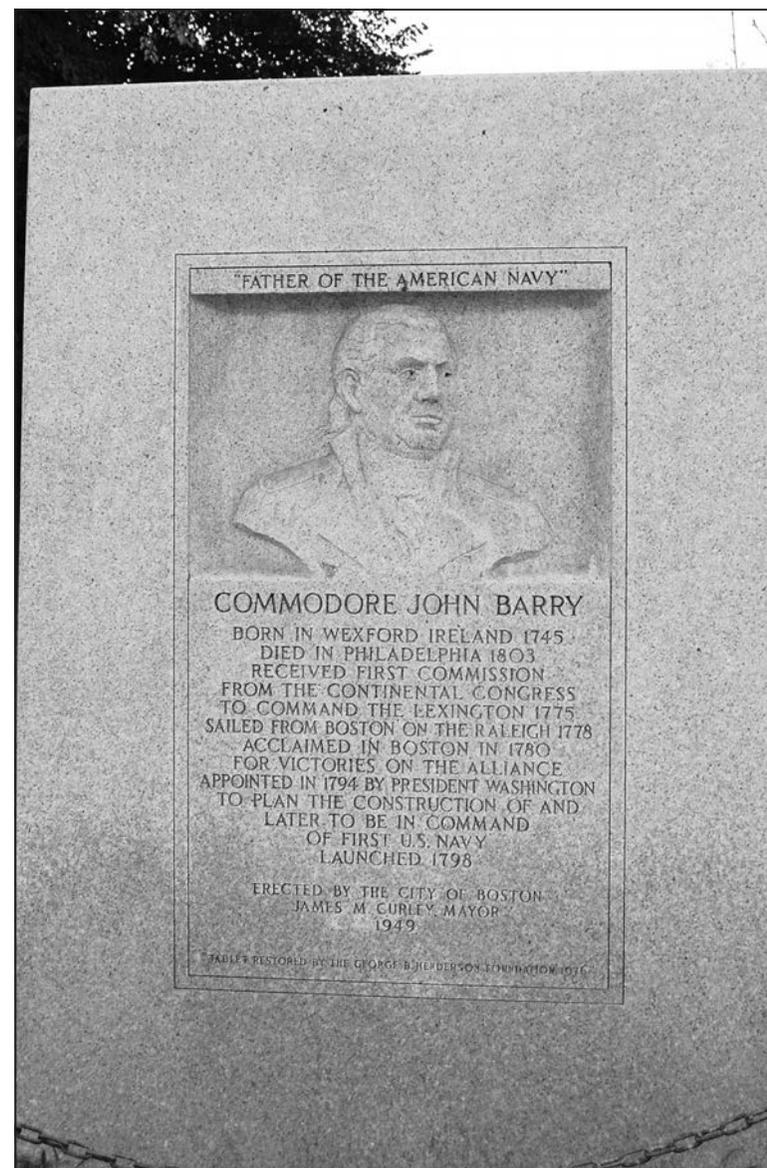
# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Durbin, Julie	Marion L Nierintz RET	280 Beacon St #34	\$1,550,000
Dallai, Riccardo	Harbert, Nancy E	1 Charles St S #5D	\$2,250,000
Frutos, Maureen	Hurley, Brendan	180 Commonwealth Ave #7	\$1,299,000
Donovan, Peter	Zimmerman, Shirley S	119 Marlborough St #6	\$649,000
Torres, Ricardo	Cushing, Mark E	121 Marlborough St #3	\$1,650,000
Zou, Yihong	Leahy, Peter G	400 Stuart St #20B	\$2,125,000
Swierczynski, Beata	Greene, Michael S	388 Marlborough St #8	\$715,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Shivvansh LLC	David&Alina Mcalpine	9 Hawthorne Pl #14K	\$422,000
Tu, Ho-Vhou	Spencer, Philip J	9 Hawthorne Pl #7H	\$525,000
Zhang, Winnie	Phinh Properties LLC	88 Mount Vernon St #2	\$345,000
Mehra, Sumit	Gett, Robert L	45 Province St #2901	\$3,900,000
Catherine A Ferguson RET	Ryan, John F	13 Walnut St #1	\$2,900,000
Hensel, James	Cheever, Peter J	8 Whittier Pl #19J	\$590,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Mir Realty Group Corp	Sterling, Karen K	495-497 Beacon St #4	\$466,000
Zhou, Jian	Zhao, Jiajia	188 Brookline Ave #21F	\$1,030,000
Grazulis, Jonas	Choi, Dooyong	725 Harrison Ave #E105	\$780,000
Huang, Wen T	Eng, Victor	35 Queensberry St #17	\$500,000
Rich, Michael L	April Marion Harff T	12 Stoneholm St #532	\$479,500
Thomas A Cowles RET	Debaere, Christopher	690 Tremont St #5	\$999,000
A Edward Friedmann 2009	Schlackmann, Marc A	1313 Washington St #606	\$1,875,000
Tam, Sharon	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #327	\$875,000
Mehegan, Tyler	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #507	\$660,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Nashed, Michael	Gem Ken Properties LLC	2 Avery St #24G	\$1,180,000
Gu, Songxiang	Kerner, Ann-Louise S	65 E India Row #8C	\$869,000

# Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The face in the last clue is that of Commodore John Barry, "Father of the American Navy," born March 25, 1745. Waymarking.com writes of this plaque, "This is an interesting piece since it is actually a granite recreation of a bronze plaque relief sculpture. The original was erected in 1949, subsequently stolen, and replaced with this new work in 1977. The original was later recovered and placed in a museum."

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

# House passes legislation to support workers effected by the public health emergency

Staff Report

Last week House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo and Rep. Joseph McGonagle, along with their colleagues in the House of Representatives, passed legislation to waive the one-week waiting period for workers seeking unemployment insurance benefits related to, or resulting from, the COVID-19 pandemic or the effects of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Baker on March 10.

"Massachusetts workers drive our economy, and the action we took today will help thousands of individuals and families as we confront the economic effects of this public health crisis," said Speaker DeLeo (D-Winthrop). "I am grateful to my colleagues in the House

for their work to addressing the urgent needs relating to the outbreak. I am proud of the work Chair Michlewitz did to move this legislation so quickly."

"I am very proud to be a part of the Legislature for prioritizing such a profound piece of legislation," said McGonagle. "In these uncertain times, we need all of our residents to be certain that we are doing our best to protect them, and waiving the unemployment waiting period is a huge step for that. Thank you to Speaker DeLeo and Chair Michlewitz for their leadership in passing this."

"Ensuring that workers have immediate access to unemployment benefits is critical," said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee

on Ways & Means (D-Boston). "I want to thank my colleagues in the House and our partners in the Senate and the Baker administration for moving this legislation along so quickly so that people can receive expedited benefits."

On March 18, the bill passed in the Senate, and the Governor signed it into law.

The following list is a summary of House action taken in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis since the State of Emergency declaration on March 10.

•On March 12, the House and Senate approved a \$15 million fund in response to the coronavirus outbreak. One March 13, the Governor signed it into law.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# EDITORIAL

## THANK GOODNESS FOR DR. FAUCI

Watching the daily press briefings of the White House Task Force on the current corona virus crisis, we know we speak for all Americans in being thankful for the calming and professional presence of Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has served as the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) since 1984.

It's hard to believe that Dr. Fauci is 79, not only because of his energy, but also because of the spot-on answers he has for every question from the press, which often includes having to make sense of the typical off-base pronouncements from President Donald Trump.

It is fair to say that there are few in the entire world who has Dr. Fauci's breadth of experience and expertise in the realm of infectious diseases. If there is one person who is irreplaceable in our government at this critical time, that person is Dr. Fauci.

We know we join with all of our fellow citizens in thanking Dr. Fauci for his many years of service to our country and for all that he is doing today in order to help us through these difficult times.

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, TOM

For the past 20 years, there has been no public figure in New England who has been more well-known, and more idolized, than Tom Brady. Regardless of whether you are a football fan, male or female, young or old, everyone knows who Tom Brady is.

Up until this season, the thought of Tom Brady not finishing his career as a Patriot was unimaginable.

But this past week, Brady's departure for Tampa Bay was the emotional equivalent of a bucket of ice water in the face. The young man who grew from a last-round draft pick into a legend, both on and off the field, has left us with an ache in our hearts, even for those of us who don't know a first down from first base.

Tom Brady never has been the most athletic person on the gridiron, nor did he possess the strongest arm. But what he demonstrated during his 20-year career is that hard work, dedication, and mental toughness matter far more than natural ability.

It is a lesson that transcends the game of football and that constitutes the essence of what made Tom Brady the GOAT.

In the vein of the maxim, " 'Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all," even though it may take another 20 years for the Patriots to get to the Super Bowl, the six championships that Tom Brady brought our region will forever be inscribed in our collective memories.

Thanks for the memories, Tom.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Through every challenge, Boston stands together

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

The coronavirus is a serious public health crisis that is affecting every aspect of life in our city. I know that the changes have been disruptive, and the cancellations have been disappointing. Some working people are losing paychecks, worried about bills, and struggling with childcare. And through it all, many of the people we want to wrap our arms around the most, are the very people we must keep at arm's length, for their own safety. I want you to know that the city is working around the clock to slow the spread of the virus, keep people healthy, and make sure that our city can return to normal as soon as possible.

The City of Boston is committed to keeping all residents informed and up-to-date. Here are the facts. The common symptoms of coronavirus are fever, coughing and shortness of breath. Most people recover by managing their symptoms at home. But for some, especially older people and those with medical conditions, it can be a severe illness. If you think you are getting sick, isolate yourself from others, and call your healthcare provider, or call 3-1-1 to talk to the Mayor's Health Line. You can learn more, including the latest updates, at [boston.gov/coronavirus](http://boston.gov/coronavirus).

Here are the preventative measures that public health officials and healthcare workers have been recommending: Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Wipe

down surfaces that you frequently touch with disinfectant. Practice social distancing by avoiding crowded places, staying at least six feet away from others, and staying home as much as possible.

What I want people to remember is that these steps aren't just about keeping yourself healthy, they are also about protecting the most vulnerable in our community, including people who have weakened immune systems and our older residents. No one wants to be isolated, especially during these times of stress and uncertainty, but the steps we take now will slow the spread of the virus, and will help all Bostonians in the long run. A lot of people are asking what they can do to help at a time like this. Staying home, and minimizing contact with others, especially those who are most vulnerable, are the best things you can do. I also encourage people to check in on one another. Sometimes, a phone call, an email, or a smile across the hallway or the yard can go a long way. If you are able, I encourage you to donate to the Boston Resiliency Fund, a new resource we created for local families in need. You can donate or learn more at [BostonResiliencyFund.gov](http://BostonResiliencyFund.gov).

As a City government, we have taken bold and aggressive action to protect all residents. We closed the Boston Public Schools, with plans to re-open on April 27. If it is safe to re-open our schools sooner, we will do so. And we created a plan to keep all 53,000 students fed and engaged with learning activities for up to six weeks out of school. To protect our families, we closed all our City gyms, pools, and community centers. We closed

all Boston Public Library locations. The BPL offers thousands of ebooks, audio books, and movies that you can access for free online. Visit [BPL.org](http://BPL.org) to learn more. To protect workers, we've ordered a pause to construction, with the exception of essential safety related projects. Restaurants are closed for dining-in, but we are lifting regulations to allow all restaurants to offer take-out and delivery. And we're ready to help any establishment get set up with a delivery service. We have worked with the Boston Housing Authority and private property owners to stop eviction proceedings until the crisis is over.

At City Hall, we will only have employees on-site who are critical to the operations of the City. We're maintaining essential City services in order to keep our government running, including public health and public safety; trash and recycling; and more. We will also continue to provide essential and emergency support for seniors, children, veterans, immigrant communities, and people experiencing homelessness. Our first responders are working and on duty, because safety is always our top priority.

When we have been challenged in the past, the City of Boston always works together. We have proven that we are Boston Strong. With vigilance and patience, with empathy and love, we will get through this together. I want to thank all the people of Boston for their strength, their understanding, and their support at this critical time.

*Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.*

## CLARIFICATION

*In last weeks Beacon Hill Times story titled, "The Write Transition: From Investment Banker to Published Novelist" we incorrectly identified BHWF board member Paula Stookey in the photo. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Pictured are Paula Stookey BHWF board member, and Jeanne Blasberg, author, at the Beacon Women's Forum event.*



## THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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**AWARD** (from pg. 1)

Circle in Boston to Kendall Square in Cambridge was called the Cambridge Bridge upon opening in 1907, but renamed the Longfellow Bridge in honor of the venerable American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1924. A multimodal structure that accommodates MBTA trains, motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists, it consists of 11 original, open-spandrel, steel-arch spans with a total length of 2,132 feet. The deck measures approximately 105-feet wide, and the bridge substructure is built of granite masonry, consisting of 10 hollow piers and two abutments. Its central bridge span is marked by four neo-classical, granite towers,

which accounts for its nickname - the "Salt and Pepper" Bridge.

As part of the bridge's most recent renovation, which was completed two years ago and was the first major facelift it had received since the 1950s, its ornate, cast-iron pedestrian railings were restored or replicated while its granite masonry was cleaned and conserved. Original ornate bronze doors and wood windows were cleaned or recreated using their original profiles and detailing.

A new state-of-the-art lighting system was installed beneath each of bridge's 12 arches while the original historic lighting posts were replicated and placed along the bridge at the historic granite

niches, which mark the location of the arches below. The historic lamps originally attached to the granite towers were replicated and placed in their original locations as well.

Rosales also designed the \$12.5 Frances Appleton Pedestrian Bridge as a major component of the Longfellow project. The 230-foot-long, steel arch span that links Beacon Hill/Charles Circle to the Charles River Esplanade opened two years ago. It is named for "Fanny" Appleton, Longfellow's wife, as a lasting testament to their courtship during the 1840s when he crossed the Charles River from Cambridge to Beacon Hill each day to visit her.

Initiated in 2010 by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, a self-described New York City-headquartered nonprofit "dedicated to advancing the classical tradition in architecture, urbanism and their allied art," the annual Bulfinch Awards honor projects that build on the legacy of Charles Bulfinch, a Boston native who is widely regarded as the country's first professional architect. This year's award winners will be recognized at a ceremonial reception and dinner gala scheduled for Sept. 19 at the Harvard Club of Boston.

Since its most recent renovation, the Longfellow Bridge has also received the National Trust

for Historic Preservation's Richard H. Driehaus Foundation National Preservation Award, which is widely considered the most important historic preservation accolade in the U.S. for restoration work; the 2018 Lighting Design Award Heritage Lighting LIT trophy; the 2019 Preservation Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Historical Commission; the 2019 Preservation Award from the Boston Preservation Alliance; and the 2019 Public Works Project of the Year in Historical Restoration from the American Public Works Association.

**MEETING** (from pg. 1)

disseminate as much information as possible to the public as well as get some answers to questions that many people have.

The hearing's first guest, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Dr. Marc Lipsitch, provided a presentation. An epidemiologist, Lipsitch said that a large fraction of the transmission from the virus is from close contact—when droplets from the cough or sneeze of an infected person land on someone else. He said that there is probably some airborne transmission as well, though it is less likely if you are outdoors.

"There is not zero risk from a doorknob," he warned, telling listeners that they should wash frequently touched surfaces and hands often.

"When will we have a better idea of how long we might be looking at?" City Councilor Michelle Wu asked.

Lipsitch said there are a lot of factors, "probably some we haven't even realized yet." He said that China took measures earlier as far as social distancing goes, and "hospitalization is a lagging indicator of new cases."

City Councilor Kim Janey asked that if testing is part of the strategy for flattening the curve, if enough is being done.

Lipsitch said that the country is "not there yet," in terms of the amount of testing that needs to be done. He said that per capita, the United States has done 30 times less testing than South Korea per capita. "We do not have the capacity to do what people are

strongly advocating for," he said.

City Councilor Julia Mejia said that it seems as though the age group for who is at risk for the virus has changed, but Lipsitch said that there is "no evidence" that the virus has changed. What has changed, he said, is the way that researchers understand the virus.

While children are much less symptomatic on average, they are still capable of catching and transmitting the virus.

Margaret Conlon of Carney Hospital in Dorchester said that a floor of the hospital will turn into a negative pressure area, which will pull infected droplets away from healthcare professionals. The hospital. The hospital is the first in the nation to offer a dedicated care center for COVID-19

patients.

Phil Landrigan, Director of the Global Public Health Program and Global Pollution Observatory at Boston College, spoke strongly about the importance of a stay at home order, though he thinks the governor's stay at home advisory is "clearly a step in the right direction," he said. "My concern is that it doesn't go far enough."

Many others also spoke at the hearing, including a representative from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and nurses who are providing care to those infected with

COVID-19.

"Things are changing daily," said City Councilor Matt O'Malley. "We want to get as much information as we can out."

As of press time, the full video for this hearing was not yet posted on the City Council's YouTube channel for playback.

The City Council will continue to hold virtual meetings and hearings; the links to follow along and participate at home can be accessed via the City of Boston website's Public Notices section.

**BHCA** (from pg. 1)

a concern.

The BHCA website ([www.bhcivic.org](http://www.bhcivic.org)) is also a good source of up to date information. We are holding committee meetings when possible through video conferencing. The website will have information as to how to join in as applicable.

Please continue to support our local business where possible, follow guidelines set out by local and state government, and stay well. We'll see you soon!

Join us!

If you haven't yet become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join at [www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member](http://www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member).

Your input in quality of life issues on the Hill is important to us, and we rely on you our neighbors to bring your comments and concerns to our attention. By joining our membership, you strength-

en our numbers and add credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill. Please call our office at 617-227-1922 or email the BHCA Executive Director at

[patricia.tully@bhcivic.org](mailto:patricia.tully@bhcivic.org) with any questions, comments or concerns, or to learn more about how you can get involved in your community.



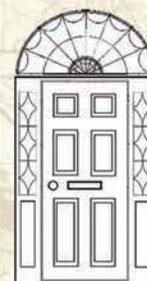
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## CAMPAIGN (from pg. 1)

since Boston EMS doesn't conduct COVID-19 testing.

Around 15 volunteers were on hand to help distribute pamphlets in Back Bay during the first shift at 9 a.m. at Commonwealth Avenue and Exeter Street on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. They typically paired off and were given a package containing 200 pamphlets, which they attempted to distribute in every lobby or doorstep of all households in a several-block radius.

"Today is to let Bostonians know that the city is a resource for them, and if they need help, we'll be there for them," said Jonathan Greeley of the Boston Planning and Development Agency, who led the effort in Back Bay. "The number-one goal is that every single resident has the critical information about the city's response to COVID-19, and the wide range of city services and food-distribution sites. The thing is we want to touch every Bostonian."

"Especially people who are really afraid, like our elderly population," added Deborah Portman, a volunteer in Back Bay and Jamaica Plain resident who work at Orpheus Performing Arts, a Commonwealth Avenue store that specializes in classical music. "We want to reach out and get the information to people who might not be that internet savvy."

Crystal Sotelo, a Medford resident who learned of the pamphlet campaign via the Boston Cares

social services organization and volunteered during the first shift in Back Bay, said, "I figure at this time, if I can help out even in the smallest way, I want to help out."

State Rep. Jay Livingstone, who was on hand at the Commonwealth Avenue Mall pamphlet-distribution site, said, "I'm really impressed with the coordination between the state and city working together to get through this, and I really appreciate the Mayor's efforts to get the information into everyone's hands."

In all, Greeley said between 30 and 40 volunteers took part in the educational campaign in Back Bay over the course of the three shifts that began at 9 and 11 a.m., and 1 p.m., respectively.

"There was a lot of enthusiasm and many people came back for multiple packages of pamphlets to make sure their neighbors got the critical information they need," Greeley said. "Clearly people want to be out helping their neighbors and city."

"Just standing on the corner for four and a half hours talking to so many people just walking by from a safe distance, you could really feel the resilient nature of Boston was on display," Greeley added. "It was a challenging week, so this was a bright spot for everyone, including myself."

By 11:45 a.m., Kim Thai, special assistant to Mayor Martin Walsh's office, said between 10



*Crystal Sotelo a volunteer and Medford resident who learned of the pamphlet campaign via the Boston Cares social services organization.*

and 15 volunteers had stopped by the pickup site at Charles and Beacon streets to pick up pamphlets for distribution on Beacon Hill, and that she expected a few more coming for the afternoon shift.

"We've distributed 2,000 pamphlets in just this neighborhood alone, and some volunteers came back for refills," Thai said. "It's really been wonderful to see all the volunteers come out who want to help the community and show just how strong our city is in times of crisis like this."

Volunteer Buddy Christopher credited Mayor Walsh for breaking up volunteers in such a way that the campaign hit every street



*City Councilor Kenzie Bok with her predecessor, Josh Zakim, and his family.*

in the city.

"It's really a nice thing, and people are stopping by and talking about helping their neighbors and caring for their families," Christopher said. "As [clichéd] as it sounds, Boston Strong is showing itself again based on these conversations."

City Councilor Kenzie Bok worked with four groups over the course of the day to help distribute literature.

"I think it was a really important and successful effort citywide," City Councilor Bok said. "Even at a time when so many are digitally connected, there are still bunch of folks not getting the information through those channels or getting bad information, so when the Mayor's office decided to get the word out, I wanted to get involved."

City Councilor Bok added, "It's an overwhelming situation, and we're just doing everything we can do to get through this challenge together. It was great to see the spirit of trying to help each other and show in concrete ways that we're all in this together."

Bok's predecessor, former District 8 City Councilor Josh Zakim also pitched in to help get the word out to neighbors.

"I'm impressed with the Mayor and Council's leadership during this incredibly difficult time," Zakim wrote. "The door-to-door information drop is a great idea. All of our residents need information and resources."

Zakim added, "Our family is



*Volunteer and Mt. Vernon resident John Achatz.*

doing okay, but others are not. It's a time for government at all levels to step up, I am glad that the city is doing so, and the state. We desperately need leadership, urgency and effectiveness from the White House, too."

## STAY IN AND TAKE OUT HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES WHILE STAYING IN

Deliveries ★ Takeouts ★ Home Services  
During this crisis, here are some Beacon Hill resources.

Consider taking out an ad to and to promote your business at this time, there are many people in Beacon Hill who do not go online and use the newspaper for most of their neighborhood information.

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Kim Thai, special assistant to Mayor Martin Walsh's office.



Development Agency and State Rep. Jay Livingstone practicing "safe distancing."

# Trial Courts continue emergency-only operations

The Massachusetts Trial Courts will remain closed to the public except for emergency matters, after more than a week of closure already.

Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday issued an order minimizing non-essential activities outside of home for effect on Tuesday, March 24 at noon.

The Order confirms that it does not apply to the Judiciary.

However, as detailed in a Supreme Judicial Court Order and Trial Court Standing Orders issued on March 17, 2020, courts continue to operate on an emergency-only basis. Courts are closed to the public but are staffed to enable the handling of emergency matters. Whenever possible, these emergency matters, such as restraining orders and juvenile protection cases, are being con-

ducted by telephone or videoconference.

Court leaders are coordinating emergency staffing levels and Court Officers are ensuring public and staff safety through a variety of measures. Court Officers are screening the public at courthouse entrances to provide guidance on emergency court matters and assess the level of risk posed by individuals arriving at courthouses across the state. Courts have created designated six-foot distance boundaries from any counters. Facilities are cleaned thoroughly each day with industrial cleaning supplies.

All updates regarding the court system's response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available on the court's website: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19>.

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# NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

## Hill House Kiddie Kamp open for enrollment

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon St., is currently enrolling for its Kiddie Kamp, which is specifically for kids aged 3-5 and the perfect combination of new and exciting experiences in a safe, familiar environment. Join a staff of counselors for a summer full of games, crafts, stories, songs, age-appropriate athletics and outdoor fun. Your child will build confidence, independence and friendships.

For more information on Kiddie Kamp, or how to register - some weeks are at 80-percent capacity, so don't wait - contact Chelsea Evered at 617-227-5838 or [cevered@hillhouseboston.org](mailto:cevered@hillhouseboston.org), or visit [hillhouseboston.org](http://hillhouseboston.org).

## Hill House Spring Baseball League registration now open

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon St., has opened up Baseball and Softball League registration. Members of the community can now register for its new Red Sox Rookie League for 4-year-olds, T-Ball (ages 5-6.5), AA Baseball (ages 6.5-7), AAA Baseball (ages 8-9) and Majors League (10- to 12-year-olds). Hill house also offers Girls Softball for 6- to 8-year-olds and 9- to 12-year-olds. All leagues are coed, and the season will begin the first week in April.

Visit <http://www.hillhouseboston.org/Athletics/Baseball.htm> for more details.

For more information on the Hill House Little League, contact Hill House Athletics Director Marshall Caldera at 617-227-5838 or [mcaldera@hillhouseboston.org](mailto:mcaldera@hillhouseboston.org).

## BSNJ Community Children's Chorus

The Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children's Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in the third through seventh grades.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative learning, building new friendships, self-assessment and the fun of being in an outstanding program.

The group meets at 140 Bowdoin St. on Saturday morn-

ings. Tuition is free for any child with a Greater Boston-area address. All levels of singing ability are welcome. To register, contact Carlton Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit [www.churchonthehillboston.org](http://www.churchonthehillboston.org) (click on "music.")

BSNJ/The Church On The Hill sponsors this initiative, but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

## 'Coloring for Adults' at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents "Color Your World: Coloring for Adults" on Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m.

At this time, the library will supply coloring pages, colored pencils, markers and crayons, or bring your own supplies if you prefer. Feel free to drop in between these hours.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

## Spanish/English Language Exchange

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., presents the Spanish/English Language Exchange/Intercambio de Idiomas en Inglés y Español on Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m.

At this time, English speakers can practice Spanish and Spanish speakers can practice English in this fun, informal conversation class.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

## BSNJ Community Children's Chorus

The Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (BSNJ) Community Children's Chorus is a comprehensive musical training program for children in Grades 3 to 7.

Your child will be participating in a program that promotes: the love of music, expressive singing, teamwork-cooperative learning, building new friendships, self-assessment and the fun of being in a well organized program.

The rehearsals take place at 140 Bowdoin St. on Tuesday afternoons. Tuition is free for any child with a Boston address. All levels of singing ability are welcome. To sign up, please contact Mr. Doctor at 617-523-4575 or visit [www.churchonthehillboston.org](http://www.churchonthehillboston.org) (click

on "music").

The Church on the Hill sponsors this initiative but we are not promoting any religious ideology.

## ESL conversation group resumes meeting at West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., welcomes the English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation group every Tuesday from noon to 1:30 p.m. Come and practice your English language skills with other newcomers and a facilitator.

## West End Playgroup meets Tuesday mornings

The West End Community Center, located at 1 Congress St., welcomes the West End Playgroup on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. through the fall and winter.

This is a free drop-in time to let kids play and adults chat with one another. Small toy donations are welcome.

## Get homework help at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, located at 151 Cambridge St., offers homework help every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Get help from a Boston Public Schools teacher. No appointment necessary; simply drop in with your homework.

Call 617-523-3957 for more information.

## Compassionate Friends group reaches out to bereaved parents, families

The Boston Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) meets at Trinity Church on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

TCF is a national self-help, mutual-assistance organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved parents and their families. Call

617-539-6424 or e-mail [tcfofboston@gmail.com](mailto:tcfofboston@gmail.com) for more information.

## West End Food Pantry seeking donations

The West End Food Pantry

needs help to continue serving its more than 120 clients per month. They welcome donations to replenish the supply of food that they give out to hungry residents in the neighborhood.

The pantry is located in the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library and is staffed by volunteers from ABCD's North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center. Non-perishable (canned and boxed) items are being sought, including rice, pasta, canned tuna, canned chicken, chili, beans, vegetables, cereal, soups, cup of noodles, etc.

Donations can be left at the library, 151 Cambridge St., on Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Volunteers needed for hot meal program

The North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC), located at 1 Michelangelo St., serves a hot, fresh, home-cooked lunch to seniors in the neighborhood Mondays and Fridays, and is looking for two volunteers to help with shopping, food preparation, cooking, serving and clean-up. The non-profit providing services and programs to low-income residents of the North End, West End and Beacon Hill is looking for volunteers who can assist with the whole meal from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a Monday and/or Friday, but can make arrangements to fit your schedule.

Contact Maria Stella Gulla, director, at 617-523-8125, ext. 201, via e-mail at [maristella.gulla@bostonabcd.org](mailto:maristella.gulla@bostonabcd.org) for more information.

## Introduction to laptops, eReaders and iPads at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., offers an introduction to laptops, eReaders and iPads by appointment only. Get the most out of your eReader or Laptop. Receive tips and guidance during these one-on-one sessions. Call Branch Librarian, Helen Bender at 617-523-3957 or e-mail [hbender@bpl.org](mailto:hbender@bpl.org) to set up an appointment.

## Yoga for seniors at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., presents yoga for seniors every Tuesday from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. Classes are led by Tatiana Nekrasova, a certified yoga instructor.

## Volunteer at Spaulding Rehab

Stay active, meet new people and be connected with your community by volunteering at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Staff members will match your skills and interests to a volunteer opportunity. The hospital is currently recruiting volunteers, ages 18 and up, for two- to three-hour-a-week shifts for a minimum of six to 12 months commitment. Visit [www.spauldingnetwork.org](http://www.spauldingnetwork.org) for more information.

After-work tai chi group at the West End Branch Library

The West End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 151 Cambridge St., welcomes after-work tai chi group every Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. Come and try this low impact energy exercise with yang-style tai chi instructor Arthur Soo-Hoo.

## Be a friend to elderly in need

FriendshipWorks seeks caring people to offer help and support to isolated elders in the Boston area. Volunteers are needed to provide companionship and assist elders with tasks such as reading, organizing, or going for a walk - lend an hour each week and gain a friend and a new perspective. Volunteers also needed to escort elders to and from medical appointments. No car is needed and hours are flexible. For more information or to apply online, visit [www.fw4elders.org](http://www.fw4elders.org) or call 617-482-1510.

## Join the Downtown Boston Rotary Club

The Downtown Boston Rotary Club, the first new Rotary Club in Boston in 100 years, holds meetings at the UMass Club in the Financial District on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.dbrotary.org](http://www.dbrotary.org) or call 617-535-1950.

**CITY PAWS**

**Welcome home!**

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

One of the best things about having a companion animal is their big, "I'm so glad you're home. I love you to pieces," greeting. That can be in the form of a happy dog racing to you or a purring cat winding itself around your legs.

We're always slightly dismayed when we unlock the door and miss a big welcome because our Poppy is at the groomer or out for a walk. Anyone who has lost a furry family member can recall how empty home feels when that special greeter is no longer around. Being the focus of all that unconditional love each day is a bit addictive.

A friend who had three cats told us, "One cat, our old queen Maddie, would just talk to you when you walked in. The other two, not so much as a whisker quiver!" Talking to you, butting heads, or rolling on the ground in front of you are cat talk for "Happy to see you!" Sometimes they may even bring you a present like a favorite toy.

**Greetings with Issues**

Some dogs also bring presents. We taught our first Westie Sassy to arrive at the door with a favorite ball. This was not for us so



*One of the best things about having a companion animal is their big, "I'm so glad you're home. I love you to pieces," greeting. (Photo by Dushyant Kumar on Unsplash)*

much as for a family member who always asked, "Is it going to bite me?"

Ms. Sassy was a bold and brassy girl. Normally, she gave us big happy greetings. One day we walked in after meeting some Westie puppies. She sniffed our pants, walked over to the center of the oriental runner in the living room, looked up at us, squatted and peed. She was not going to allow people with puppy smell in

her house!

That was defiance urination. It is more common for dogs to suf-

fer from excitement or submissive urination. Once past puppyhood, Poppy has been fine with most people visiting us. However, she has a few special friends who require us to prepare for their arrival by making sure that her tank is on empty and that one of us is holding her as they enter.

The common advice for dealing with a leaky greeter is to reduce the excitement of your arrival. Enter calmly and quietly and take the dog to relieve herself right away. Next, teach your dog to sit while greeting you by going in and out a few times a day and having him sit each time you return.

**Coming Home to a Mess**

Some dogs with separation anxiety will behave badly anytime you are away. You may find trash cans tipped over, or evidence of chewing, salivating, breaks in house training or neighbors complaining of barking. Here the solutions

include confining the dog to a safe, small area or a crate. You can add some music or comforting sound to the home and tone down the excitement surrounding your leaving. We give Poppy a Kong filled with a bit of goat cheese to keep her busy as we exit.

We began talking about this topic when a recent Rover.com study reported, "The majority of both dog (69%) and cat (67%) owners admit they say hello to their pet before their family when they get home." Perhaps those of us who live with other humans should make a point of coming through the door with a hearty, "Hello everyone!" before bending to pat the dog or cat who came to the door to greet us.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*

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# Statistics for Massachusetts

## COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts as of March 24

Confirmed cases of COVID-19	1159
	+382 from the 23 <sup>rd</sup>

## Massachusetts residents subject to COVID-19 quarantine by current status as of March 17

Total of individuals subject to quarantine	2054
Total of individuals who have completed monitoring (no longer in quarantine)	886
Total of individuals currently undergoing monitoring/under quarantine	1168

## COVID-19 INFECTION BY AGE BRACKET

≤19 years of age: <b>24</b>	20-29 years of age: <b>188</b>
30-39 years of age: <b>205</b>	40-49 years of age: <b>214</b>
50-59 years of age: <b>208</b>	60-69 years of age: <b>153</b>
≥ 70 years of age: <b>164</b>	Unknown: <b>164</b>

These do not reflect the most up to date numbers, as they were not reported by press time. Please scan the QR code to the left to see them.

### What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

### Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

### Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

## Total Number of Cases by County

Barnstable	40
Berkshire	37
Bristol	31
Dukes and Nantucket	2
Essex	118
Franklin	5
Hampden	24
Hampshire	8
Middlesex	304
Norfolk	129
Plymouth	64
Suffolk	234
Worcester	73
Unknown	90

For the most up to date information scan this with your smartphone at any time to visit the State's website for all information related to the virus.



### What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

### How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

### If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

# COVID CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 19

## What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

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### How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

### What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

### What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

### How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

### If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

### Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

### Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

# Researchers at the South End's NEIDL have started working to find COVID-19 treatments

By Seth Daniel

One researcher at Boston University's National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL) in the South End of Boston has received samples of the COVID-19 virus late last week, and has permission to begin working to find a treatment for those with the virus – with the NEIDL being one of only about 10 places rushing for a breakthrough therapy.

Professor Robert Davey, PhD., said the NEIDL started on Thursday, March 19, growing the virus in the Level 5 biolab with samples of the COVID-19 collected from the first patient that died in the United States, a man from a nursing home in Washington state.

With the virus samples in their possession, Davey said the entire scientific community in Boston and at the NEIDL is invigorated to begin working in combination on a successful treatment for a sickness that has rocked the entire globe off its normal axis.

"That's why it's great working in Boston because you have all this

great stuff going on here," he said, noting that he worked in Texas for about 20 years before being recruited by the NEIDL in 2018. "That's how great science is done and how you find great treatment...All the schools and universities here have come together to try to nail this. That is very invigorating and exciting.

"Otherwise, scientists tend to be stuck to their own thing," he continued. "I have my niche and exist in that niche. I might practice my science and do great work, but usually there isn't everyone coming together at once like this. I'm looking forward to doing our work and seeing if we can make an impact on this outbreak."

Those helping Davey in the testing will be Harvard University, MIT, the Broad Institute and other industry partners.

Samples came in just in the last few days, and Davey said they are growing the virus right now in the lab to be used in testing over the next month. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had taken samples from the first man in the U.S. that died in Washington state

on Feb. 29. Those specimens were sent to the University of Texas where they have a repository for infectious disease samples. From there, they were sent to the NEIDL this week, along with about 10 other places.

Having all those places working at the same time is a strategy similar to taking as many shots at goal as possible, with the idea being that one will eventually get through for success. He said that having 10 places is not a lot of places nationwide, so they do consider it an honor to be part of the group looking for a successful treatment.

"Finding an effective treatment is much like finding a needle in a haystack," he said. "To swing the odds in our favor, you need to throw a lot of needles into that haystack and you'll find one that works. With our testing, it's like taking as many shots on goal as you can and by doing that you'll have a greater chance of success."

The NEIDL will be testing small molecules on the virus. Small molecules are drug treatments that have been made by chemists as



The Boston University National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory, known as the NEIDL, is one of only a few sites in the country moving fast to find a treatment for the COVID-19 virus. Researchers received samples of the virus late last week, and began growing samples of it in their lab on Thursday, March 19, for testing.

potential treatments to a virus of this kind. They will test these small molecules on tissue samples infected with the virus with the goal of finding something that stops the virus from replicating. Once they find a "hit," they would begin testing it on lung cells that are in the possession of the lab – as lung cells are most relevant to what the virus attacks.

To get to that point, they'll be using 20,000 small molecules produced by their partners.

"We are expecting to test 20,000 small molecules," he said. "A (typical) pharmaceutical company (trial) would test one million, but this is a very directed session."

Finding one of those small molecules that work is the first step, Davey said, to identifying a treatment.

The testing, he said, would likely last for about a month. However, any success they have

would then have to be run through testing with mice, then to Phase 1 clinical trials and finally to licensing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is no sense of how long that might take, but the FDA has said it is focusing all its resources on approving anything that is successfully produced at the NEIDL or any of the other approximately nine sites across the country.

Davey clarified they are only working on a treatment for those who already have the COVID-19 virus, but there are others within the NEIDL preparing to work on a vaccine for COVID-19, which would be given to those who are not yet sick in order to prevent them from getting sick.

"There are other groups here doing vaccination development, and in the near future you will hear about them," he said.

As he and his team began to prepare for the work of finding a therapy, he said he did feel a sense of extreme purpose.

"It's important to be part of a team effort contributing to trying to find a cure," he said.

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