

Dear Friends of 15th Suffolk,

We hope you're finding safety and encouragement as we enter the surge in COVID cases. Please continue to reach out to one another and to our office for support. Read on for brief updates about housing and insurance resources, City of Boston's upcoming Budget hearings, a remote job opportunity, and other resources and announcements. Next week we'll send an update on policy and legislation.

Local and State Resources

- The [application for the Housing Choice Voucher program](#) is now on Metro Housing's website and can be used by anyone looking to apply for our Section 8 waiting lists. For those seeking more immediate assistance to pay the rent or mortgage due to a reduction in income, our RAFT pre-application is also available on our web site under [completing the pre-application](#).
- **The Boston Home Center Foreclosure Prevention & Intervention** program's counseling and advocacy services are available to guide, assist our homeowners and support them during this crisis regardless of how the homeowner chooses to engage the COVID-19 assistance options or services and are services are FREE and Confidential.
 - COVID-19 - Mortgage Assistance Hotline Call : (617) 635-4663, opt# 3
 - Boston Home Center [Website](#)
- **Greater Boston Legal Services** has set up a [COVID-19 resource page](#) on their website (www.gbls.org) for clients and other service providers to keep people informed of their rights.
- If you need insurance, you may qualify for coverage through the **Health Connector** if you've lost coverage from a job. An extended enrollment period is available through May 25, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. You can apply [here](#) today.
- **MassMutual** has a new initiative to provide free term life insurance coverage of up to \$25,000 to the brave and resilient frontline healthcare workers across

Massachusetts and Connecticut risking their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. This announcement is in no way an endorsement of this insurance product over others, so do your homework! But we wanted to make sure people were informed. Please find the press release online [here](#).

State and Local Announcements

- The Baker-Polito Administration today announced that its COVID-19 text message alert system "AlertsMA" is now available in Spanish. This expansion of the text-alert system means that the same text alerts that are distributed via the English-language system will now be available to Spanish-language users. Someone can subscribe to the Spanish-language service by texting **COVIDMAESP** to **888-777**.
 - La Administración Baker-Polito anunció hoy que su sistema de alerta de mensajes de texto COVID-19 "AlertsMA" ahora está disponible en español. Esta expansión del sistema de alerta de texto significa que las mismas alertas de texto que se distribuyen a través del sistema en inglés ahora estarán disponibles para los usuarios en español. Los usuarios pueden suscribirse al servicio en español enviando un mensaje de texto a **COVIDMAESP** al **888-777**.
- The Baker-Polito Administration also announced the launch of a new Nursing Home Family Resource Line, a dedicated telephone line that will connect family members of nursing home and rest home residents with the information and resources they need. This resource was created so that family and community members have one central contact that they can reach out to if they have questions or concerns about the care their loved one is receiving during the COVID-19 outbreak. The line is staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM, seven days a week. Staff will coordinate across state agencies to help callers find answers to their questions. **Families and community members can call the line at (617) 660-5399.**
- The schedule of all [upcoming City of Boston FY21 Budget hearings can be found here](#). You can testify about an item relevant to a department during the relevant departmental hearing, or testify about any aspect of the budget during one of the public testimony hearings.
- **Boston Public Health Commission's [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): The Latest](#)** includes Boston's latest numbers, information

about the city's response, an FAQ, and more.

- Do you need a test to determine if you may have COVID-19? [Testing sites](#) are available by appointment only.

Remote job and volunteering opportunities

- **Partners in Health** is hiring Contact Tracers to support the Department of Public Health by calling the contacts of anyone diagnosed with COVID-19. More information is available along with the application process by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions about the job opportunity please refer to the Partners in Health website listed on the link.
- A group of neighbors with Brookline's [High Street Hill Association](#) has been working to organize the outpouring of support between members of our community: **The primary goal is to connect people who are sick or suffering hardships with neighbors who can help.** Some examples include check-ins by phone and email, grocery deliveries, and an immediate assistance hotline. This initiative complements existing efforts (e.g. Brookline Mutual Aid) and other resources (e.g. The Brookline Food Pantry). If you or someone you know are interested in volunteering, please email highsthill@gmail.com.



For constituents, advocates, or anyone else looking to get in touch, you can reach the office at **617-722-2582**, or isabel.torres@mahouse.gov!

You can follow us on social media on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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