

Governor Baker:

As state and municipal officials, we are calling on you to issue an order to Shelter In Place by the end of the day today, Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Physicians tell us COVID-19 is at least 10 times more contagious than the flu, and that as many as 1 out of every 5 people who are infected will contract a serious pneumonia that will require hospitalization. Epidemiologists have suggested that Massachusetts could see 10,000 cases or more by the end of this month.

It is essential that the spread of the virus be suppressed to protect the ability of healthcare providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety.

We urge that you follow the example set by the City of San Francisco and other communities in the Bay Area, where [a Shelter In Place order](#) was issued for some 7 million residents on March 16. New York City has also advised that its 8 million residents should be prepared to Shelter In Place in the very near future.

By “Shelter In Place,” we mean people must be asked to stay home except for essential needs. Vulnerable populations must stay home. Everyone should stay home except to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care, or go to an essential job. Going outside for walks is permissible, but there can be no congregating in groups and there can be no interaction with playground structures of any kind.

Furthermore, we recognize that by calling for this order, we have an obligation to take all necessary actions to provide shelter for people who need space to quarantine or are experiencing homelessness. Given the nature of COVID-19, congregate settings may not be appropriate. We urge you to use your power to make dorm rooms, hotel rooms, vacant properties, and temporary structures available to all who are in need of shelter.

We thank you for your urgent attention to this emergency situation and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you as we do everything possible to maintain the capacity of our healthcare system and prevent loss of life in the days and weeks ahead.

Yours in service,

Rep. Mike Connolly, Cambridge
Rep. Kay Khan, Newton
Rep. Tami Gouveia, Acton
Rep. Maria Robinson, Framingham
Rep. Jack Lewis, Framingham
Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, Northampton
Rep. Nika Elugardo, Boston
Rep. Denise Provost, Somerville
Rep. Jay Livingstone, Boston
Rep. Michelle DuBois, Brockton
Rep. Tram Nguyen, Andover
Rep. Adrian Madaro, Boston
Rep. Natalie Higgins, Leominster
Rep. Christine Barber, Somerville
Rep. Carmine Gentile, Sudbury
Rep. Mary Keefe, Worcester
Rep. Ruth Balser, Newton
Senator Jamie Eldrige, Acton
Senator Becca Rausch, Needham
Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Cambridge
Vice Mayor Alanna Mallon, Cambridge
City Councillor Marc McGovern, Cambridge
City Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, Cambridge
City Councilor Quinton Zondervan, Cambridge
City Councilor Denise Simmons, Cambridge
City Councilor Dennis Carlone, Cambridge
City Councilor Patty Nolan, Cambridge
City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Somerville
City Councilor Mark Niedergang, Somerville
City Councilor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville
City Councilor Jesse Clingan, Somerville
City Councilor J.T. Scott, Somerville