

PRESS RELEASE  
March 18, 2020

## Update on Town & Village services regarding COVID-19

**ESSEX JCT.** – Effective at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, all Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction offices and departments will be closed to the public. Closures will remain in effect until at least April 6, and will be reconsidered on a weekly basis. Residents and customers are asked to conduct all municipal business electronically, by phone, or by mail.

The Town and Village are committed to doing our part to keep the public and our staff healthy while preventing the spread of COVID-19, while also providing the best public service possible.

For the time being, staff will be available at municipal locations to assist by phone and electronically. For any business that cannot be conducted remotely, staff will be available by appointment only.

The Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, also known as coronavirus. The best sources to stay informed are the Vermont Department of Health ([www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov)) and the Centers for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) websites. These resources are updated daily and contain helpful tips for hygiene and preventing the spread of the virus.

Additional municipal details are as follows:

- Secure drop boxes are available at the main entrance of the Town Offices (81 Main St.) and at the rear entrance of the Village Offices (2 Lincoln St.). Both boxes are checked daily. Please put any and all payments in the drop boxes. Your cashed check will serve as a receipt. Mail your water bills to the address on the slip and wait for your check to clear as your receipt.
- Essential Town Selectboard and Village Board of Trustees meetings will continue as scheduled for now. All Selectboard and Trustee meetings will be held at the Town Offices at 81 Main St., which provides more space for social distancing. We strongly encourage the public to participate and engage remotely. In lieu of attending meetings, you can submit your comments in writing to Deputy Manager Greg Duggan at [gduggan@essex.org](mailto:gduggan@essex.org). This also applies to any item on the agenda, or for public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Staff is also exploring call-in options for during the meeting.

Meetings of the Essex Selectboard and Essex Junction Board of Trustees are live-streamed on Channel 17's YouTube Channel, until further notice. Please visit [www.cctv.org](http://www.cctv.org) for the link.

- Public use of meeting spaces in the Town Offices, Village Offices, Brownell and Essex Free libraries, Fire Stations, Police Station, and Recreation Offices is suspended through April 19. All upcoming board/commission/committee meetings that do not require important business or deadlines are cancelled through at least April 19. Exceptions will be made to comply with open meeting laws for essential public meetings, including Essex Selectboard and Essex Junction Board of Trustees.

We will continue to evaluate the situation and use guidance from the Vermont Health Department. Additional information will be shared with any changes to Town and Village services. Please check [www.essex.org](http://www.essex.org) and [www.essexjunction.org](http://www.essexjunction.org) for updates.

For more information, contact Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager/Public Information Officer (802-878-1341, [gduggan@essex.org](mailto:gduggan@essex.org)) or Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager/Deputy Public Information Officer (802-878-6951, [tgetchell@essex.org](mailto:tgetchell@essex.org)).

#### **DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFO**

Emergencies	9-1-1	
Administration/Manager's Office	802-878-1341	<a href="mailto:manager@essex.org">manager@essex.org</a>
Assessor's Office	802-878-1345	
Karen Lemnah, Assessor		<a href="mailto:klemnah@essex.org">klemnah@essex.org</a>
Brownell Library Main Desk	802-878-6955	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org">frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org</a>
Brownell Library Youth Desk	802-878-6956	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org">frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org</a>
Clerk's Office	802-879-0413	<a href="mailto:clerk@essex.org">clerk@essex.org</a>
Community Development (Town of Essex)	802-878-1343	
Owiso Makuku, Director		<a href="mailto:omakuku@essex.org">omakuku@essex.org</a>
Sharon Kelley, Zoning Administrator		<a href="mailto:skelley@essex.org">skelley@essex.org</a>
Darren Schibler, Planner		<a href="mailto:dschibler@essex.org">dschibler@essex.org</a>
Community Development (Village of Essex Junction)	802-878-6950	
Robin Pierce, Community Development Director		<a href="mailto:robin@essexjunction.org">robin@essexjunction.org</a>
Terry Hass, Assistant Zoning Administrator		<a href="mailto:terry@essexjunction.org">terry@essexjunction.org</a>
Essex Free Library	802-879-0313	<a href="mailto:essexfreelibrary@essex.org">essexfreelibrary@essex.org</a>
Finance	802-878-1359	<a href="mailto:finance@essex.org">finance@essex.org</a>
Fire Department (Town of Essex)	802-878-8331 (non-emergency)	
Charles Cole, Chief		<a href="mailto:ccole@essex.org">ccole@essex.org</a>
Fire Department (Village of Essex Junction)	802-878-8331 (non-emergency)	
Parks and Recreation (EJRP and EPR)	802-878-1376	
		<a href="mailto:recreation@ejrp.org">recreation@ejrp.org</a>
Police Department	802-878-8331 (non-emergency)	<a href="mailto:info@epdvt.org">info@epdvt.org</a>
Public Works (Town of Essex)	802-878-1344	
Dennis Lutz, Director		<a href="mailto:dlutz@essex.org">dlutz@essex.org</a>
Public Works (Village of Essex Junction)	802-878-6944	
Rick Jones, Superintendent		<a href="mailto:rick@essexjunction.org">rick@essexjunction.org</a>
Rescue (not a municipal department)	802-878-4859	<a href="mailto:info@essexrescue.org">info@essexrescue.org</a>
Senior Center	802-876-5087	
Senior Van	802-878-6940	
Wastewater Treatment Facility	802-878-6943	
James Jutras, Water Quality Superintendent		<a href="mailto:jim@essexjunction.org">jim@essexjunction.org</a>