

PRESS RELEASE
June 21, 2021

Update on Town of Essex & Village of Essex Junction services regarding COVID-19

Open Meeting Law temporary measures expire and masks are no longer required

ESSEX JCT. – The state of emergency declared in 2020 in response to COVID-19 has expired along with the temporary measures enacted by the Vermont Legislature and tied to the declared emergency. Among them are Act 92 and Act 113 of 2020, which had temporarily amended the Vermont Open Meeting Law to allow for fully remote public meetings.

The Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction have been working with a team from Town Meeting TV/CCTV to implement a hybrid format for public meetings. This will allow people to participate in public meetings either in person or online. This installation is new and Essex stepped up early to become only the second municipality thus far to team up with Town Meeting TV on this project. The Town Selectboard will launch the hybrid model at 81 Main Street at their regular meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 21. The Village conference room at 2 Lincoln St. will be outfitted soon after. The Town and Village remain committed to bringing residents access to public meetings. Until such time the hybrid format is completely up and working, meetings will be held in person, as they were before the COVID pandemic.

The Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction buildings are now open to the public with in-person services, with the exception of the Village Office at 2 Lincoln Street, where Community Development/Zoning services remain by appointment. The municipalities encourage residents to adhere to social distancing guidelines when visiting municipal facilities. Masks are no longer required in most municipal buildings, with some exceptions.

Departmental updates include the following:

Clerk –81 Main Street Office for Village and Town services

Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Contact: phone (802) 879-0413 or email clerk@essex.org

Outside drop box locations: 81 Main St. and 2 Lincoln St.

Website: <https://www.essexvt.org/225/Clerk-and-Treasurer>

The Clerk's Office is open to the public. Online options for service are encouraged and drop boxes outside of the buildings at 81 Main St. and 2 Lincoln St. are available for payments. The Clerk's Office is allowing one person at a time in the office for title search appointments. [Online access to land records is now available.](#) Please contact the Clerk's Office for more information.

Finance – 81 Main St.

Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

For general questions: (802) 878-1359 or finance@essex.org

For Village water/sewer questions: (802) 857-0073 or utilitybilling@essex.org

For Town water/sewer questions: (802) 878-1359 or utilitybilling@essex.org

For accounts payable questions: (802) 878-1359 or AP@essexjunction.org or Toe.Finance@essex.org

Drop box locations outside of buildings: 81 Main St. and 2 Lincoln St. Please do not leave cash.
Remote services are strongly encouraged and are available by phone, email, website, or drop box.

Unified Manager's Office – 81 Main St.

Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Contact: phone (802) 878-1341 or email manager@essex.org

Brownell Library

Contact: phone (802) 878-6955 or email frontdesk@brownelllibrary.org

Website: www.brownelllibrary.org

Masks are required, regardless of vaccination status, in public areas of the library, for the safety of younger patrons and others who cannot be vaccinated. Brownell Library is open for limited appointments. Browsing time will be added towards the end of June and more in July, with appointments continuing. Appointments can be booked by calling or emailing the library or visiting their website. Curbside service is offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Wednesdays 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. As browsing times increase, curbside response may be delayed. Public computers are available by appointment and during browsing times.

Essex Free Library

Contact: phone (802) 879-0313 or email essexfreelibrary@essex.org

Website: www.essexfreelibrary.org

Masks are required, regardless of vaccination status, in public areas of the library, for the safety of younger patrons and others who cannot be vaccinated. Essex Free Library is open for drop-in browsing and computer use on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Mondays are reserved for curbside services only. Browsing sessions are for 30 minutes, and computer sessions are for 45 minutes.

Parks & Recreation – 75 Maple St.

Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Contact: phone (802) 878-1376 or email recreation@ejrp.org or recmail@essex.org

Programs: Masks are recommended for unvaccinated people (2 years and older) when inside.

Parks: All masking and physical distance mandates are lifted. Unvaccinated individuals seeking recommendations should reference the Department of Health website.

Assessor – 81 Main St.

Open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Contact: phone (802) 878-1345 or email assessor@essex.org.

Visit our [online property card system](#) (for commercial property record cards please call or email for a copy), or our online [tax maps](#).

Community Development

Town: Open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Village: Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm by appointment

Contact:

Town: phone (802) 878-1343 or email community-development@essex.org

Village: phone (802) 878-6950 or email Village_CommDev@essex.org

The Planning Commissions and Zoning Boards of Adjustment continue to meet as needed to process applications.

Public Works and Water-Sewer

Town Public Works contact: (802) 878-1344 or email public-works@essex.org

Village Public Works contact: (802) 878-6944 or email pw@essexjunction.org

The Town Public Works offices are open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am until 4:30 pm. Online service and inquiries are encouraged. Requests for service can be submitted via the [See-Click-Fix](#) app or by contacting the office. The Town and Village Highway Department and water sewer crews are currently working full shifts with normal working hours. Water and sewer operations continue as normal but with conditions for in-house requests for service.

Wastewater Treatment Facility

Contact: phone (802) 878-6943 or email wwadmin@essexjunction.org. All operations continue as normal and the facility building is open.

Senior Services

The Senior Center is running a summer series of programs out of Memorial Hall for June, July, and August. Luncheons are being held at Sandhill Park. Information about programs and the schedule can be found on their [Facebook page @Essexareaseniorcenter](#), as well as under the newsletter tab on their website www.essexvtseniors.org. The Senior Center building at 2 Lincoln Street is currently closed. If you have any questions regarding resources or needs, please call (802) 876-5087. The Senior Vans run Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Appointments for van rides are made on Mondays between 9:00 am to 2:00 pm by calling (802) 878-6940. To register as a new rider, please call (802) 878-6940 to request a ridership application.

Community Justice Center

The CJC is open and all staff are working in the office. Planning is underway for programs to go back to in person at the CJC by August 2021. Appointments are required to come to the CJC at this time. For questions or assistance call (802) 872-7690.

Police and Fire Departments

Emergency services (police, fire & rescue) continue to deliver all emergency services to our community. The Police Department is back to full service to include VIN verifications and car seat checks. The department lobby and community rooms are open. For general non-emergency questions, you can call (802) 878-8331 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

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. The best sources to stay informed are the Vermont Department of Health (www.healthvermont.gov) and the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) websites. These resources are updated daily and contain helpful tips for hygiene and preventing the spread of the virus.

Additional information will be shared with any changes to Town and Village services. Please check www.essexvt.org and www.essexjunction.org for updates or visit www.essexvt.org/covid for community events updates and helpful resources.

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