The Mayor’s Disaster Relief Fund (MDRF) was activated in response to the public health crisis created by COVID-19. Through the generosity of residents and local corporations, the City is distributing over $3.6 million in donations to provide temporary emergency assistance to individuals and families in Cambridge who are experiencing financial hardship. The City is on track to provide over 1,600 households with two months of housing assistance through the fund. The City is dedicating $500,000 from the MDRF, and $1.6 million from Community Development Block Grant Funds and Federal CARES Act Funds for grants to support small businesses. The City is also collaborating with the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) to provide $1.5 million in zero-interest small business loans, which are funded by the CRA, and serviced by Cambridge Savings Bank.

These combined efforts are providing over $7.3 million in financial support directly to residents and small businesses in our community during this difficult time. Learn more about these efforts at Cambridgema.gov/covid19/Business.
COVID-19 Testing for Cambridge Residents

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) is offering COVID-19 testing to all Cambridge residents via a stand-alone testing center at the CHA East Cambridge Care Center, 163 Gore Street. Cambridge residents eight years of age and older are welcome, regardless of insurance or immigration status. The Cambridge Public Health Department will contact people, via phone, with the results. Results will be available within 5 days after people are tested. All patients will also receive guidance on how to protect themselves and family members while test results are pending. This is available in multiple languages.

Below is key information about the service:

- **Appointments are required.** Cambridge residents should call 617-665-2928 to get an appointment. The Call Center is open Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Testing is provided to Cambridge residents and CHA patients** Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Testing is available both as a drive-thru service and for bicyclists and people who arrive on foot.**
- **Testing will be conducted in a tent located at the CHA East Cambridge Care Center, 163 Gore Street.**
- **There is no charge.** People will be asked for insurance information, but it is not required.

Cambridge Adapts Approach to Engagement and Services for its Most Vulnerable Residents

When City of Cambridge offices and programs closed on March 17 to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, a central priority was ensuring that the 800 seniors who relied on the Council on Aging’s (COA) Food Pantry would still have access to a regular food source. By March 23, the City had partnered with Food for Free to launch the Cambridge Community Food Line. Every senior enrolled in the Food Pantry program was contacted to participate in the innovative program which delivers weekly shelf-stable food items directly to residents.

The Community Food Line has also been serving people who are at high risk of food insecurity, including: those who lost their job or part of their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and cannot afford groceries; people who are homebound due to illness, disability, or quarantine; and people who are at high risk for COVID-19 and do not have access to a regular food source. As of May 7, this publication’s deadline, Food for Free has made over 11,158 deliveries to more than 2,000 Cambridge households, including 1,387 Food Line participants. To participate in the Cambridge Community Food Line, call 617-349-9155. For more information, visit Cambridgema.gov/FoodLine.

With the additional closure of churches and daily programs serving meals, many homeless individuals in Cambridge no longer had access to food. As Cambridge shelter programs became short staffed, they did not have the capacity to prepare meals on site. The City of Cambridge, in partnership with local business associations, began contracting with and paying local restaurants to deliver meals to shelters and programs that the Department of Human Services Program identified as having a strong need for meals. Since March 23, over 2,000 meals have been delivered weekly to 10 homeless shelters and programs in Cambridge.

The City committed to providing these meals through the duration of the declared emergency. Special thanks to Central Square Business Association and Harvard Square Business Association for helping get this program off the ground.

Cambridge Police Department prepared a resource guide for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault during this difficult and uncertain time. Safety planning recommendations for individuals in an abusive relationship can be found at Cambridgema.gov/CPD under COVID-19 Resources: Domestic Violence Survivors. Here are a few useful numbers:

Connecting to Students, Youth, Families and Seniors Virtually

While City buildings have been closed, staff at the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) and Cambridge Public Library have continued providing programming and connecting with the students, families and individuals they serve. From moving classes to digital platforms; to helping individuals navigate complex state and federal processes; to devising creative activities for youth and families, below are a few examples of how our staff engage with the community during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Community Learning Center (CLC)

The CLC offers a range of classes to adult learners, including English as a Second Language and literacy classes, citizenship, career advising, and more. Since building closures, 80% of students have made the switch to learning online, with teachers supporting classes virtually through technology such as Zoom, WhatsApp, YouTube, and other platforms to build skills for learning in new ways. The role of CLC’s Education and Career Advisors has also shifted to remotely helping students file for unemployment, receive stimulus funds, and access food and housing resources that meet their basic needs.

Center for Families and Baby University

The Center for Families has been connecting with families and running programs virtually, including Baby Time Infant Playgroup, Playgroups at Home, Cambridge Dads, and more. Staff regularly record videos of story times and sing a-longs to share with families. They also provide activity ideas and child development information through social media. Baby University has been working hard to support families and connect people to much needed resources. Baby U’s Saturday workshops are currently offered through Zoom, with a special virtual graduation session planned for May.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: Multilingual advocates available 24/7, 1-800-799-SAFE.


Within days of City office closures, a housing resources and FAQs page on rent and mortgage payments, the City’s eviction moratorium, and tenant/landlord information was added to the City’s COVID-19 website. The City’s Housing staff recommended many temporary changes to housing policies and practices at the owner and property management level, such as flexible rent payment due dates, lease renewal options, and suspension of late fees and lease break fees. The City Manager sent a letter to over 180 property owners and management companies to request implementation of these changes and provided information on how to support tenants. For assistance, call the Housing Resource Line at 617-349-9777 or visit Cambridgema.gov/covid19/Housing.

For more information on the various resources that continue to provide support to local businesses and residents, visit Cambridgema.gov/COVID19.

Photos by Amanda Macchia, amandamacchiaphoto.com

Ashley Kelley, an instructor in DHSP’s Peabody Afterschool Program, leads a nature-based virtual activity for students.

Pre-Schools

Across the City’s seven preschools, teachers have developed innovative ways to connect with families and encourage student learning from a distance. Teachers host weekly Zoom to check in with parents and host Zoom classroom meetings to engage children in activities like virtual book circles, where they can enjoy peer interaction digitally. Teachers also provide suggestions for at-home activities that promote developmental skills, from sock puppet crafts, to alphabet games, to nature observations, to virtual field trips to museums and zoos, and more. Many classrooms are uploading student creations to digital platforms to share student work and continue building classroom community.

Continued on Page 7
Saluting Our Front Line Workers

During a challenging time when schools and non-essential businesses are shutdown and residents are adhering to the Stay at Home Advisory, we want to thank and salute the dedicated front line workers in the City and in our community who continue to carry out important services to get us through. And of course, we also want to thank our residents who are doing their part by staying home, social distancing, wearing a mask when going out, and practicing good hand hygiene.
CityView Special COVID-19 Edition Spring 2020
Yon Mesaj ki sòti nan men
Direk-tè Minisipal la ak Jeran Vil la

Nou espere ke ou an sante epi san danje. Sila yo se morman difisil pou kominote nou. Nou konnen ke Konsey Rete Lakay la (Stay Home Advisory), pratik distans sosyal yo, kondisyon kouvri figi a, ak fèmti lekòl ak bizniz e pwogram ki pa esansyèl yo se ajisteman difisil yo ye. Nou vroman ëf de repsons kominote nou an pandan pandemik san parèy sila a. Konfòmitè ou bay konsèy Sante Piblik la ap fè yon diferans, epi nou vie d’w mèsi pou sa.

Nou ap gade pi devan pou lè ou sa a rive pou nou reniy anò, selebre, ak pale kominote nou an pèsòn.

Anplwaye vil la ak lidè eli yo ap koabore byen nan repons nou sou kriz KOVID-19 la. Depi an Mas nou ap travay pou sipòte plizyè nesesite kominote a. Pa egzanp, nou te aktive Fon Soulajman pou Dezas Direktè Minisipal la (Mayor’s Disaster Relief Fund) poi sipòte mou yo, fammi yo, ak ti bizniz ki eksperimante difikilte finansyè, nome yon komite konseye ekspè pou ede gide moun san danje; mete sou sye kontriksyon yon moratoròm pou pwotè je epitem. Nou vle dòmò yon pilote yon pwogram tès rapid ak Gwo Enstiti (Broad Institute) poi sipòte etablismen long tem nou yo; te fè apel epi te fè apel espesifik byen grômoun aje nou yo; epi nou te komèt pou ou vil la la kominiksyon an 8 lang.

Finalman, nou vie di travayè liy frontal yo mèsi. Mem si ou travay pouvi, vil la, yon organi yon san danje, ou sou yon bizniz esansyèl, w’ap kenbe nou san danje, ba nou manje, epi kenbe Vil nou an mouvman.

Nou gen la rekonesans pou dedikasyon ak angajman ou pou kominote ou. Nou la pou ou jodi a epi nan le fiti tou. Nou ankouraje ou pou rete enfòme nan sit wèb KOVID-19 nou: Cambridgema.gov/COVID19.

Mensagem do Prefeito e do Administrador da Cidade

Esperamos que vocês estejam bem e com saúde. Estes tempos são desafiadores para a nossa comunidade. Entendemos que o Decreto para Permanência em Casa (Stay at Home Advisory), as práticas de distanciamento social, a exigência para cobertura da face e o fechamento de escolas e serviços e programas não essenciais têm sido ajustes difíceis. Estamos imensamente orgulhosos da resposta da nossa comunidade durante esta pandemia sem precedentes. Seu compromisso com a diretriz de Saúde Pública está fazendo a diferença e gostaríamos de agradecê-los.

Estamos ansiosos pelo dia de podermos novamente avançar, celebrarmos e falar com nossa comunidade pessoalmente. A equipe da Prefeitura e os líderes eleitos estão colaborando de perto com nossa resposta à crise da COVID-19. Desde março, estamos trabalhando para apoiar as várias necessidades da comunidade. Por exemplo, acionamos o Fundo Municipal de Auxílio a Calamidades (Mayor’s Disaster Relief Fund) para dar suporte a pessoas físicas, famílias e pequenas empresas frente a dificuldades financeiras, nomeamos uma comissão consultiva especializada para ajudar na orientação de medidas de saúde pública, estabelecemos uma moratória de construção para proteger a segurança do trabalhador, criamos uma iniciativa inovadora para restaurantes locais fornecerem refeições para desabrigados, aprovamos uma moratória de despejo para proteger inquilinos, estabelecemos parceria com a agência Food for Free para criar a linha de alimentos da comunidade, criamos um abrigo temporário e instalação de quarentena para desabrigados, desen-volvemos o piloto de um programa de testes rápidos com o Broad Institute para apoiar nossas instalações de atendimento médico de longo prazo, telefonamos e realizamos contato direcionado aos nossos idosos e nos comprometemos a fornecer comunicados da Cidade em oito idiomas.

Pôr fim, gostaríamos de agradecer aos trabalhadores da linha de frente. Seja trabalhando para a Cidade, para uma organização de saúde ou em serviços essenciais, vocês estão nos mantendo seguros, alimentados e o funcionamento da Cidade. Estamos gratos por sua dedicação e compromisso com nossa comunidade.

O que esperamos é que possamos novamente nos reconhecer, celebrar e falar pessoalmente com nossa comunidade. Estamos à disposição hoje e no futuro. Querem manter-se informados por nosso site sobre COVID-19: Cambridgema.gov/COVID19.

來自市长和市政执行官的信息

我们希望您保持安全和健康。对我们的社区来说，这是一个艰难的时刻。我们知道，居家咨询、保持社交距离、佩戴口罩以及关闭学校和非必要企业以及项目都是艰难的调整。我们对我们的社区在前所未有的疫情期间的反应感到无比自豪。您对公共卫生的遵守正在产生影响，对此我们向您表示感谢。

我们期待着我们可以再次面对面地打招呼、庆祝以及与我们的社区交流的那一天。

市政府工作人员和当选领导人正在密切合作开展COVID-19危机应对工作。自三月起，我们一直致力于支持社区的各种需求。例如，我们启动了市长救灾基金，以支持正遭遇经济困难的个人、家庭和小型企业；任命了一个专家咨询委员会以帮助指导公共卫生措施；实施暂停施工以保护工人安全；建立了一个创新举措，让当地餐馆为无家可归者提供膳食；通过了暂停驱逐以保护租户；与Food for Free合作创建社区食品热线；创建了一个临时无家可归者收容所和检疫设施；与Broad Institute（博德研究所）一起试验了快速检测项目，以支持我们的长期护理设施；拨打电话并由老年人开展有针对性的外联活动，并致力于以8种语言提供城市沟通。

最后，我们要向一线工作人员表示感谢。无论您是为城市、医疗保健组织，还是重要的企业工作，您都在保护我们的安全，保护我们的食物供应，以及保持我们的城市继续运行。我们非常感谢您对我们社区的奉献和承诺。

我们现在和未来都会在此守护您。我们敦促您通过我们的COVID-19网站：Cambridgema.gov/COVID19了解最新情况。
Un Mensaje del Alcalde y el Gerente de la Ciudad

Esperamos que se encuentren seguro y saludable. Estos son momentos difíciles para nuestra comunidad. Sabemos que el consejo de quedarse en su casa, las prácticas de distanciamiento social, la obligación de cubrirse la cara, y el cierre de escuelas, negocios, y programas no esenciales han sido medidas difíciles. Estamos muy orgullosos de la respuesta de la comunidad durante esta pandemia sin precedentes. Su cumplimiento con las recomendaciones de Salud Pública han resultado en una gran diferencia y queremos agradecerles a todos.

Esperamos el día en que podamos una vez más darle la bienvenida, y celebrar y conversar en persona con la comunidad.

El personal de la Ciudad y los líderes electos están colaborando juntos para responder a la crisis de la COVID-19. Desde Marzo, hemos estado trabajando para brindar apoyo a las diversas necesidades de la comunidad. Entre otras cosas, hemos activado el Fondo de Ayuda para Desastres del Alcalde, para personas, familias, y pequeñas empresas que enfrentan dificultades financieras; asignamos un comité asesor experto para orientar en las medidas de salud pública; pusimos en marcha una moratoria de la construcción, para proteger la seguridad de los trabajadores; creamos una iniciativa innovadora para que los restaurantes locales preparen comidas para las personas sin hogar; aprobamos un aplazo de desalojo para proteger a los inquilinos; nos asociamos con Food for Free para crear una línea de alimentos para la comunidad; creamos un refugio temporal y centro para la cuarentena para personas sin hogar; llamamos a personas mayores para ver si estaban bien; y nos comprometemos a enviar mensajes de la Ciudad en ocho idiomas.

Por último, queremos agradecer a los trabajadores de primera línea. Ya sea que trabajen para la Ciudad, una organización de atención médica, o un negocio esencial, nos están manteniendo a salvo, alimentados, y en funcionamiento.

Estamos agradecidos por su dedicación y compromiso con la comunidad. Estamos aquí para ustedes, hoy y en el futuro. Les sugerimos que se mantengan informados a través del sitio web sobre la COVID-19: Cambridgema.gov/COVID19.

Connecting to Students, Youth, Families and Seniors Virtually

Recreation

Recreation staff are engaging youth by sharing sports drills and workout challenges that athletes can complete at home, in addition to a Trivia Challenge on social media. The Cambridge Program, which supports individuals with special needs, is connecting with participants by sharing videos, including a compilation of play performances from the past eight years.

STEAM Initiative

The Cambridge STEAM Initiative is providing families and Out of School Time providers with a curated set of hands-on/minds-on STEAM activities, with support from Find It Cambridge, Cambridge Public Schools (CPS), Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge Science Festival, Agenda for Children OST and many other community partners. Families can access a range of virtual and at-home STEAM activities on Find It, by searching STEAM@Home. Additionally, the STEAM Initiative partnered with CPS Food Services to print K-12 STEAM activities on lunch bags provided to children through the CPS Emergency Meals Program.

Youth Centers

Beginning in early April, every Cambridge Youth Center has offered a variety of virtual programming to young people, Monday through Friday. Activities include poetry workshops, TikTok challenges, art history lessons, tai chi, trivia, and more. Staff vary the online platforms they use for activities in order to provide young people with different engagement options: to enjoy peer interaction and to experience activities passively by completing activities on their own time.

Council on Aging

During the COVID-19 closures, the City’s Council on Aging (COA) continued to engage Cambridge seniors through biweekly phone broadcast messages to over 1,300 seniors, individual calls to those who may be isolated, and virtual programming. COA’s SHINE Counseling program, which provides benefits counseling, continued to operate through phone and virtual appointments. COA has also been engaging its caregiver support group, as many community members have become primary caregivers for senior relatives. To learn more, call 617-349-6220 or visit Cambridgema.gov/covid19/Seniors.

Cambridge Public Library (CPL)

While City offices have been closed, Cambridge Public Library continues working to enhance its available online services and collections. New programming includes a 30-minute online workshop and reflection on how bullet journaling can be a coping strategy during times of change, virtual storytime, and CPL STEAM Academy’s Passions & Pathways Series for Teens. Learn about CPL’s online resources at cambridgepl.libguides.com/virtual.
City View

A publication of the Office of the City Manager, City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4300 • cambridgema.gov

City Manager Louis A. DePasquale
Deputy City Manager Lisa C. Peterson

Cambridge City Council:
Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui
Vice Mayor Alanna M. Mallon
Councillor Dennis J. Carlone
Councillor Marc C. McGovern
Councillor Patricia M. Nolan
Councillor E. Denise Simmons
Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler
Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan

ECRWSS
Resident Postal Customer
Cambridge, MA

COVID-19 Resources and Useful Numbers

Cambridge Community Food Line: Assists residents who are at high risk of food insecurity. Call 617-349-9155 or visit Cambridgema.gov/covid19/food.

Housing Resource Line: Information and referral services for housing questions and concerns. Call 617-349-9777 or visit Cambridgema.gov/covid19/Housing.

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities: 617-349-4692, ccpd@cambridgema.gov, Cambridgema.gov/covid19/pwdresources.

Support for Seniors: Contact the Council on Aging at 617-349-6220 or visit Cambridgema.gov/covid19/Seniors.

Nursing Home Family Resource Line: Staffed 7 days a week from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 617-660-5399.

Find It Cambridge: Your online resource for activities, programs, and services in Cambridge. Call 617-686-2998 or visit finditcambridge.org

COVID-19 Testing for Cambridge Residents: Appointments required. Call 617-665-2928. Call Center is open Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

General City Inquiries: Call 617-349-4000 or email 311@cambridgema.gov

Massachusetts State COVID-19 Information Line: Call 2-1-1.

Stay Informed. Learn more at: Cambridgema.gov/COVID19.

Looking to keep informed on the latest City news? Follow us on Twitter at @CambMA and on Facebook at CambridgeMA.gov.