



# TOWN OF GORHAM

## P R E S S R E L E A S E

[www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org)

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### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release - March 13, 2020

#### **Town of Gorham Cancels All Non-Essential Board Meetings, Room Rentals and Department-Specific Activities in Response to COVID-19, Urges the Public to Limit Visits to Other Public Facilities.**

Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, the Town of Gorham will be canceling, for an initial 30-day period, all outside organization room rentals/usage, senior center programs, senior group meal sites and Baxter Memorial Library Programs. All Gorham Public Safety Facilities will be closed to the visiting public for the health and safety of our first responders in order to continue to be able to provide effective services.

A complete list of cancellations will be available starting Monday, March 16, 2020 on the Town's municipal website at [www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org).

Please note that the Town will continue to provide limited recreation programs for Gorham's youth through the Gorham Recreation Department until otherwise posted. Should the Gorham School Department decide to cancel schools, these programs will also be canceled for that same duration. We will be working with state and local officials and monitoring this evolving situation on a daily basis to determine when these programs and facilities will be open again to the public.

Although we believe that these changes will impact the daily lives of our citizens, we believe that our first priority should be limiting the spread of this illness to protect our elderly populations and people with certain health conditions. Our Town does not believe that any of our municipal employees have had an exposure at this time and please be assured that these cancellations and any future closures and/or cancellations are being taken out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our citizens.

Essential municipal governance boards such as the Gorham Town Council will continue to meet as needed, although on a limited basis. We ask that all members of the public please limit their attendance if possible at public meetings. The Town of Gorham will be working with IT personnel on web-based interactive communication for meetings while Councilors can be communicated with via e-mail by visiting the Town website. The Town's public access media department, GOCAM, also provides streaming and cable-based viewing of Town meetings and events through their website and local access television. Any changes to municipal meeting schedules will be publicly announced and posted prior to the meeting. The Town of Gorham is also asking residents to limit use of public buildings that, for the time being, remain open for public business at the Gorham Municipal Center. Please only come in to transact business in-person if absolutely necessary to help us prevent the further spread of the Coronavirus.

Many services are available online or can be transacted over the phone. Our website has a full directory of contact information for each department and you can also find a complete list of online services by clicking [here](#). If you are sick, regardless of what the illness is, please stay home.

We continue to encourage residents to obtain the latest information from the Maine CDC and U.S. Centers for Disease Control. We also recommend taking precautionary measures like a person would for a cold and the flu. Examples include staying home when you are sick, covering your cough and sneeze (into your arm), and practicing good hand-washing with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds. Residents and visitors to Gorham can stay informed of our efforts at [www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org).

The Town of Gorham will continue to work closely with other agencies to provide additional updates and information as it is available and applicable.

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