

**CITY OF NEWTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**EMERGENCY PROTOCOL ANNOUNCEMENT**

On March 15, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibiting public gatherings of more than 25 people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 to April 6, 2020.

Subsequently, the Mayor of the City of Newton and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services declared a State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In order to prevent, minimize and mitigate damage to public health in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak, the Newton Commissioner of Health and Human Services hereby suspends enforcement of City of Newton Ordinances Sec. 12-71, Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, and Sec. 12-72, Sustainable Food Containers and Packaging Ordinance, *but only* as to restaurants and bars that use such plastic bags for take-out and to-go service of food to patrons. This suspension of enforcement will be in effect as long as the prohibition of on-premises consumption of food or drink as bars and restaurants lasts under the Governor's emergency actions. This order is effective immediately upon signing.



Deborah Youngblood  
Commissioner of Health and Human Services  
City of Newton

Date: March 17, 2020