

## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL ANNOUNCEMENT - REVISED USE OF PLASTIC BAGS AND FOAM POLYSTYRENE

Dear Newton Businesses,

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 on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 to April 6, 2020. The Governor issued further orders prohibiting public gatherings of more than 10 people during the same time period.

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 consistent with the Governor's Orders, the Newton Commissioner of Health and Human Services is hereby refraining from the enforcement of City of Newton Ordinances Sec. 12-71, Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, and Sec. 12-72, Sustainable Food Containers and Packaging Ordinance.

This suspension of enforcement will be in effect as long as the prohibition of on-premises consumption of food or drink in bars and restaurants lasts under the Governor's emergency actions. This order is effective immediately upon signing and supersedes any similar, prior actions concerning Ordinances Sec. 12-71 and 12-72.

\*If you have specific questions regarding this suspension, please call 617-796-1420.

\*For additional information regarding Coronavirus in Newton, please see [The HHS COVID-19 webpage](#)

Newton Food Safety Website



City of Newton Health and Human  
Services

1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton, MA 02459  
617-796-1420

[www.newtonma.gov/foodsafety](http://www.newtonma.gov/foodsafety)