

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022

Mayor's Update

A winter storm is heading our way with snow expected to begin during the pre-dawn hours. Heavy snow, falling 1 to 2 inches an hour, is expected during the morning on Friday, tapering off by late afternoon. We might also see sleet or freezing rain mixing in with the snow.

Altogether we're expecting 10 inches of heavy, wet snow. Temperatures will fall into the teens as night falls Friday with the possibility of a flash freeze. Saturday will remain cold, but thankfully dry.



Trash and Recycling Delays

With the heavy snow expected, Waste Management let us know they have cancelled trash and recycling collection for tomorrow, Friday.

With the Monday President's holiday earlier this week, the Thursday route normally would have been collected on Friday, and the Friday route was expected to be collected on Saturday.

Now, with trash and recycling collection cancelled tomorrow because of the storm, the Thursday route will not be collected this week, and the Friday route will be collected on Saturday.

We know this is a huge inconvenience for people on the Thursday route. We're so sorry. Next week, if you have extra, overflow trash, use a regular trash bag and put it out next to your cart. In other words, you do not need to use the orange overflow trash bags if you are on the Thursday route. (Note, this only applies to regular household trash, not oversized items.)

By the way, the easiest and best way to stay informed of changes in the trash and recycling collection schedule is to sign up for trash and recycling alerts on the **Recycle Right Newton** app – which alerts us to trash day delays due to holidays or weather events. The Recycle Right Newton App is available for free on a smartphone through Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Snow Emergency Parking Ban

A Snow Emergency Parking Ban will go into effect just after midnight tonight, at 12:01 a.m. just as Friday, Feb. 25 begins.

No cars can be parked on the street, in municipal parking lots, or school parking lots (including under solar canopies) to allow DPW crews and contractors to plow effectively. If left on the street, cars may be towed.

We will post on the City website at newtonma.gov when the snow emergency parking ban is lifted.

Closures and Cancellations

- City Hall will be closed tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 25.
- Newton Free Library will be closed on Friday. Check newtonma.gov to see if the library will open on Saturday.
- Newton Senior Center will be closed on Friday.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture programming will be cancelled on Friday.
- NewMo will not operate on Friday.
- Resource Recover Center at Rumford Avenue will be closed on Friday and Saturday.
- Newton Public Schools: All vacation week activities are cancelled for Friday.

Sidewalk Shoveling

Residential property owners need to clear the sidewalk in front of their property within 24 hours of a storm's end. Property owners in business and commercial districts, or of residential buildings with four or more units, must clear the sidewalk in front of their property within 12 hours of the storm's end.

Because of the amount of heavy, wet snow forecast, our DPW Commissioner suggests if possible to finish shoveling before temperatures drop around 5 p.m. on Friday and probably turn the heavy, wet snow into frozen chunks.

If you can, please help out a neighbor who may need a hand.

Handy Phone Numbers

Report snow related issues online through the 311 reporting system at newtonma.gov or by telephone at 617-796 -1000.

As always, in an emergency, call 911 immediately.

If you lose power, please report it to Eversource immediately at 1-800-592-2000.

COVID-19 Case Update

We had 197 confirmed new cases of COVID-19 in Newton over the past seven days from Feb. 17 to 23. This is far lower than the 363 cases we saw during the previous seven days.

Significantly, over the State's two-week tracking period from Feb. 6 to 19, 74% of the cases in Newton were among students at one of the Newton institutions of higher education that conduct COVID-19 testing.

Newton-Wellesley Hospital reports as of Tuesday, Feb. 22, seven patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 are hospitalized, one of whom is in the ICU. These are the lowest numbers of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 since early November 2021.

The daily incidence rate in Newton (which measures the number of positive cases per 100,000 population) remained almost steady at 2.9%. (It was 2.8% last week.) The positivity rate also remained almost flat. This week 2.9% of the 22,402 tests performed on Newton residents were positive compared to 2.8% of 24,200 tests last week.

Best of all, again this week no one in Newton died with COVID-19.

Please stay off the roads during the storm if you can, help out a neighbor if they need a hand and consider shoveling out fire hydrants near your home.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Interested in shaping the **future of Albemarle**? Your experience in using this 17 acre park with its playgrounds, pool and athletic fields is extremely valuable as we consider the future of this area. Please take 10-15 minutes to share insight into

your priorities for this important park in Newton. Click [here](#) for a survey to inform the Albemarle Master Plan.

P.P.S. Congratulations to the MIAA Division I **State Champions Newton North High School Girls and Boys Indoor Track and Field teams.** (*Boston Globe photo by Joseph Pohoryles*)

