RE-OPENING OF TOWN HALL

April 19, 2021

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Town of Hampton Falls, NH, like many neighboring cities and towns, decided to close the Town Hall to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now time to re-open under safe distancing and reduced risk of exposure.

Masks will be required to be worn by the public inside the Town Hall.

To accommodate re-opening government buildings, we have developed operating procedures which will be in effect until further notice. These practices are based upon public health guidelines and are designed to keep both our employees and the public safe.

Please note that certain departments may need to adapt procedures specific to their offices, facilities and services. We will continue to learn, adjust and adapt as we move forward, and ask for your help and patience during this time.

The Board of Selectmen reminds residents and members of the public that a majority of transactions can be done on-line or questions can be answered by telephone, fax or email.

Town Hall employees will continue to work regular business hours of their respective departments. Police and Fire will also continue to operate.

Please see the Town web site (www.hamptonfalls.org) and credible sources such as the CDC and State Department of Health and Human Services for specific information relating to COVID-19 matters. Another source is 211. Please visit often as information is ever-evolving.

Hampton Falls will continue to do its best to provide all necessary services. Thank you for your understanding.

Hampton Falls Board of Selectmen
HAMPTON FALLS TOWN HALL PLAN TO RE-OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

We hope you and your family are well and have managed to stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town has developed the following “re-opening” plan, which will enable the safe re-opening of Town Hall as follows in concert with public health guidelines as of:

**Monday, April 19, 2021**

The Town Hall building will be open so that the public may conduct business with all departments (until further notice).

**NOTE:** In order to minimize foot traffic in Town Hall, to maximize social distancing and to reduce the risk of exposure to both residents and employees, we strongly encourage residents to continue to make use of our online tools which can be accessed online at any time via our website www.hamptonfalls.org.

To accommodate re-opening government buildings, and in conjunction with our Emergency Management Director, we have developed the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which will be in effect until further notice. These practices are based upon public health guidelines, and are designed to keep both our employees and the public safe.

Please note that certain departments may need to adapt procedures specific to their facilities and services. We will learn, adjust and adapt as we move forward, and ask for your help and patience during this time.

**PROCESS/FACILITY ADAPTATION PRIOR TO REOPENING**

The following shall be in place for the re-opening of Town Hall:

- Town Hall has been regularly cleaned, and will continue to be thoroughly cleaned weekly.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been established throughout the building, and members of the public are asked to use such hand sanitizer prior to entering any office or Department.
- Plexiglass guards have been installed at customer service counters as well as some other temporary renovations.
- Prior to reporting back to work, employees will let supervisors know if they need a mask, and masks will be provided to employees that need them.
- When possible, workstations will be separated by at least six feet. Wherever needed, 6’ demarcations will be added to areas where people often wait for service.
- To the extent possible, we will maintain only one public entrance to Town Hall (via the Town Hall addition entrance), where masks and hand sanitizer will be available to the public.

Rev. 4/7/2021
• The front door and most offices shall be reserved and demarcated for employee (and emergency) use only.

• All visitors to Town Hall must wear masks. Signage for the public entrance will be posted which includes the following information:

ATTENTION ALL VISITORS:

For your health and the health of others, we require that you use HAND SANITIZER AND WEAR A FACE COVERING while in the building. If you do not have a face covering, a face mask will be provided to you. Visitors without face coverings will not receive service from Town employees. We want all Town employees and visitors to feel as safe as possible.

If you are not feeling well, we ask that you refrain from entering the building and instead make use of services such as 211.

Thank you, in advance, for your patience and cooperation.

EMPLOYEE REOPENING PROTECTIONS

I. Monitor Your Health

Employees must be vigilant in monitoring their health, and those who are sick or not feeling well must stay home. Possible symptoms of COVID-19 include:

• Fever
• Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath
• Flu-like symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue
• Changes in a person’s sense of taste or smell

PRIOR TO LEAVING HOME EACH DAY, employees should ask themselves the following 5 questions:

1. Have I been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
2. Do I have a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (100.0°F) or above (please take your own temperature every morning at home, and if you are unable to do so, we have touchless thermometers available at Town Hall) or have I felt feverish (chills, clammy) in the last 72 hours?
3. Am I experiencing any new respiratory symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath?
4. Am I experiencing any new muscle aches or chills?
5. Have I experienced any new change in your sense of taste or smell?

IF the answer to any of these questions is YES, the employee should STAY HOME, and notify their supervisor by phone or email. Information to assist you with getting a test, evaluating your return to Town Hall, and the application of our leave policies will be provided, if applicable.

II. Adherence to CDC and State of NH Public Health Guidelines

CLOTH FACE COVERINGS (hereinafter “MASK”)

• An employee must don a mask any time you are unable to maintain a 6’ distance between you and your co-workers and/or someone from the public.

• Care should also be taken when putting masks on and taking them off; for example, hands should be washed or disinfected prior to putting a mask on and taking one off.
• While in an office with closed doors or working alone or at distance from other staff, masks can be removed. Masks must be worn in hallways and common areas.
• Care should be taken to keep your mask clean and uncontaminated.

**AVOID OR MINIMIZE FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT WHEN POSSIBLE**
• Unless it is necessary for face-to-face contact when responding to an inquiry from the public, please respond via telephone or email. Please refrain from communicating with the public via text because the Town is subject to Right-to-Know requests and retrieving texts may require inspection of an employee’s telephone.
• Unless it’s necessary for face-to-face contact with co-workers, consider a phone call or email, even if your offices/workspaces are next to each other.
• If an in-person conversation occurs, remain at their door if applicable or maintain a 6’ distance whenever possible, and if not possible, you must wear a mask (for example, if you are picking up mail or other documents in the clerks’ office space, dropping off items to individual desks, etc.).
• Use of electronic meetings may take place. Employees should avoid congregating in any area of all facilities unless social distancing can be maintained.
• Employees should continue to encourage and help the public to use on-line resources to the maximum extent, and to the extent possible, work to minimize the time spent conducting in-person transactions with the public and each other (e.g. keep non-task-related conversation to a minimum).

**CONTINUE TO PRACTICE GOOD HAND HYGIENE AND OTHER CLEANING**
• Continue to practice good hand hygiene, washing your hands often, especially after using shared equipment, and try to avoid touching your face, nose or mouth.
• Practice good respiratory etiquette. This includes coughing and sneezing into a tissue or your elbow rather than into your hands.
• Although we employ a cleaning company, employees should conduct regular cleaning of shared surfaces and shared equipment during the day. Employees are responsible for wiping and disinfecting touch surfaces in their vehicles, equipment and office space as well as shared equipment in common spaces, i.e. copiers, printers, kitchens, bathrooms. When in doubt, wipe it down. Cleaning supplies will be located in common areas. If you cannot find them, please ask your supervisor for assistance.

**BE PREPARED AND BE FLEXIBLE**

Supervisors have been instructed to plan for potential COVID cases. In the event we experience higher than usual absenteeism, there may be a need to adjust schedules or again close to the public. We ask for your continued flexibility regarding work arrangements.

Please keep in mind that these protocols will be in place until further notice. We thank you in advance for your cooperation – working together, we hope to have a safe and healthy re-opening to the public. Again, please note that departments may need to adapt procedures specific to their facilities and services. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions as to how we may help to keep our employees and residents safe and well!