



Order of the Framingham Board of Health to Restrict Public In-person Meetings

March 16, 2020

Whereas, the City of Framingham and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is being affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic;

Whereas, on March 10, 2020 Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency in Massachusetts for Covid-19;

Whereas, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health has declared that there is community level transmission in Middlesex County;

Whereas, on March 12, 2020 Governor Baker issued an executive order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law applicable to public bodies due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, instead allowing meetings to occur on a fully remote basis so long as provision is made for public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means;

Whereas, on March 15, 2020 Governor Baker issued an executive order applicable on a statewide basis requiring social distancing, including restrictions on public gatherings of more than 25 people;

Whereas, the Governor's March 15, 2020 order is applicable to all public meetings except those of state and municipal legislative bodies;

Whereas, any in-person public meeting will create the opportunity for transmission of Covid-19;

Now, therefore it is the intention of the Framingham Board of Health to further restrict in-person public meetings in Framingham.

Order:

All in-person public meetings of any public body are prohibited in Framingham from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020, except meetings of the Framingham City Council, the City's municipal legislative body. The Board of Health recommends that the City Council voluntarily agree to refrain from holding in-person public meetings from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020 and instead conduct its meetings on a fully remote basis.