

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, you declared a State of Emergency in Massachusetts on March 10, 2020. President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency on March 13, 2020. The Brewster Select Board and Board of Health jointly declared a state of emergency on March 18, 2020. These were vital actions but we believe they are no longer sufficient to protect the health and safety of the people of Massachusetts. We urge you to immediately order all persons in Massachusetts to shelter in place except under narrow exceptions.

New studies in several countries suggest that the virus can be spread by individuals showing no symptoms. The transmission of this disease can be slowed by physical distancing, specifically by avoiding public spaces and limiting people's movement. It is incumbent on every person to do their part to minimize the impact of this virus. However, we are seeing evidence that not all members of the public are following public health guidance.

Your leadership will mean the difference between life and death for the citizens of our community, Commonwealth, and nation. Our goal must be to protect the health of the vulnerable, and to do everything in our power to restore the peace, wellbeing, and economic security of our society.

As elected officials, we have a duty to act to protect our citizens. We, the members of the Brewster Select Board and the Brewster Board of Health, urge you to act immediately to protect the public's health and control disease.

We have only one chance to get this right. Currently, data show that the United States coronavirus cases are tracking similarly to Italy's devastating situation rather than nations where public health action suppressed virus spread. We can change our trajectory but only if we act fast.

We are relying upon you to exercise your authority to implement such action.

Very respectfully,

Brewster Select Board

David Whitney

David Whitney, Chair

Mary Chaffee

Dr. Mary Chaffee, Vice Chair

John Dickson

John Dickson, Clerk

Cynthia Bingham

Cynthia Bingham

Benjamin deRuyter

Benjamin deRuyter

Brewster Board of Health

Annette Graczewski

Annette Graczewski, Chair

Carmen S Scherzo, DVM

Dr. Carmen Scherzo, Vice Chair

Lucas Z Dinwiddie

Lucas Dinwiddie

Joe Ford

Joseph Ford

Penny H. Holeman

Penny Holeman

Cc:

The Honorable Julian A. Cyr, State Senator

The Honorable Sarah K. Peake, State Representative

The Honorable Timothy R. Whelan, State Representative