



# TOWN OF TRURO

P.O. Box 2030, Truro, MA 02666

Tel: 508-349-7004, Extension: 10 or 24 Fax: 508-349-5505

## CORONAVIRUS

A Pandemic Dilemma That Demands A Particular  
Introspective Thoughtfulness From All Of Us

We are writing as the elected executive body, the Select Board of the Town of Truro, and with the concurrence of the Board of Health. Truro with a population of 2003 is part of Barnstable County, with a population 215,000. Our communities are seasonal destinations frequented by tourists and second homeowners.

The county and our town are currently experiencing an influx of people fleeing urban centers and hubs. This exodus is due to an understandable self-protection instinct to be in an area that is presumed to be a safe harbor during this time of uncertainty. While in normal times our town would be welcoming visitors, these are not normal times. Because of both the real and perceived threat of such a population surge, we write to discourage this crisis-generated influx of people. Truro is a town of limited resources, and our medical infrastructure is very limited. The county has only two hospitals: one in Hyannis, some 38 miles distant, the other in Falmouth, 60 miles away. If people come from off-Cape, away from their primary care physicians, and become ill, they will be dependent on emergency room aid. They will also be burdening our on-call rescue personnel. We are operating our firehouse and rescue squad with off-season staffing. Barnstable County does not have the medical resources of an urban center and the influx of population will put an undue burden on medical services which exist to serve our year-round population.

In addition to taxing medical services, we are in an area that is an end-of-the-line destination for domestic supplies we all count on, e.g. groceries, prescription drugs and necessary household goods.

We recognize that second homeowners, who pay local property taxes, have every right to come to their homes, but we want everyone to understand the risks and to think very carefully before making such a move. We also ask that if you move to Truro, you come with provisions and plan to follow the newly released guidance from the Governor's Office to self-quarantine for 14 days. For those who have relocated here recently, we ask for the same two-week quarantine.

These are unusual times, which call for a careful assessment and evaluation of the risks posed to both you and all others in our community during this national emergency.