



Town of Auburn Cancels Summer in the Park Concert Series and Independence Day Celebration Events

Please be advised that the Town of Auburn, in consultation with the Board of Health, has cancelled its 2020 Summer in the Park Concert Series and its 2020 Independence Day Celebration events due to Covid concerns. While it is sad to eliminate these signature events this summer, this decision was made to protect the health and safety of attendees, guests, employees, performers, vendors and volunteers. It is not in the best interest of public health at this time to hold events such as these where we typically attract large crowds. This decision was also made in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Reopening Plan, and Governor Baker's Emergency Order No. 13 that limits gatherings to ten or fewer persons.

Under Emergency Order No. 13, gatherings subject to this Order include community, civic, public, leisure, concerts, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together more than 10 persons in any confined indoor or outdoor space. Under Governor Baker's Statewide Reopening Plan, gathering size in Phase I and Phase II will remain at ten or less; gathering size in Phases III and IV will be determined based on trends.

Per the CDC guidance on Gatherings and Community Events, large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 via those who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. The CDC cites examples of large events and mass gatherings to include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies. According to the CDC, larger gatherings (for example, more than 250 people) offer more opportunities for person-to-person contact and therefore pose greater risk of COVID-19 transmission. Therefore, the CDC recommends that organizers cancel community-wide mass gatherings.

While these Orders and Guidance may be revised at some point over the next several weeks, the Town of Auburn cannot guarantee that social distancing guidelines per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State's Department of Public Health can be adhered to during such events, nor do we believe these types of events are safe, even with the wearing of face coverings, as large scale gatherings pose a greater public health risk of spreading Covid-19.

We thank you for your understanding of the measures that we are taking to ensure the health and safety of our residents, employees and visitors. We look forward to returning to a "new" normal under which we can hopefully resume these community events in the summer of 2021.

Warm Regards,



Julie A. Jacobson
Town Manager



Darlene M. Coyle
Director of Public Health