



# TOWN OF DOUGLAS

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## **Public Notice #8 2020 Coronavirus Response**

We all know that calling 911 for emergency assistance is a stressful event. The Town Police and Fire departments ask for your help in managing the extra stress that the COVID emergency contributes to the situation.

If you call 911 for medical assistance, please answer all the questions posed by the dispatcher as accurately and completely as possible, in order to help our first responders save time and prepare for your situation fully.

One of the issues at the center of the COVID-19 state of emergency is the fact that our health care infrastructure and work force has limited capacity to deal with large surges of very sick people. Only a percentage of people who develop COVID-19 end up requiring significant medical intervention, but the help they need can be very intensive. As we do our best to work together to control the spread of the coronavirus, we will help control the numbers of seriously ill people who may need extra assistance in a hospital setting.

A key concern for all small towns, Douglas included, is that we have a limited number of first responders. The Town stands by our dedicated personnel and is making every effort to provide them with all the resources they need to protect your health and their own. But we are staffed for our normal type and number of calls; the circumstances we are in are far from normal.

If a first responder is exposed to the virus, he/she may have to spend 14 days in quarantine, and even a negative test result still involves a quarantine of 3 days. Having staff off the job for any period of time seriously depletes the Town's ability to provide first response. Dispatchers are trained to ask the important questions. Please do your part to help by answering them. Always remember that it's okay to say you don't know if, you don't know.

Thank you for keeping this in mind.