



# Newport Police Department

59 MAIN STREET  
NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03773



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## MEDIA RELEASE

The Newport Police Department will be modifying some of our current operational practices in response to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and its impact locally. It is our hope that curtailing these practices will help slow the spread of this virus, and mitigate the risk of exposure to our staff and the Newport Community at large. At present, we remain fully operational, staffed and ready to respond to the myriad needs of our unique community. Newport Police Officers will continue to respond to all emergencies, in-progress calls and other priority responses.

However, effective immediately, we will be suspending some low-priority services. Those services include, but are not limited to, employment-related fingerprinting, tours of the building, citizen ride-alongs, VIN verifications, and public engagements.

The Newport Police Department encourages citizens to contact the police department by phone to ask questions and file non-emergency reports. During the pendency of this pandemic, and our national and regional response thereto, we will modify the way that we handle citizens' calls-for-service. In this community, we take great pride in delivering prompt, face-to-face interactions when a report is lodged with our Dispatch Center. Many of these reports will now be handled over the telephone, or other media platforms that are conducive to social distancing recommendations advanced through the NH Division of Public Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If a person does find the need to come into the Newport Police lobby, a staff member will communicate with them through the Dispatch window.

The public should also be prepared for Newport Police Officers to practice social distancing during their encounters, and to utilize personal protective equipment as necessary. We remain committed to providing public safety services to the citizens of the Sunshine Town. The measures that we have implemented were done with great care and after careful consideration with other leaders in Town Government. We believe that these steps are consistent with the recommendations being advanced regionally and nationally in an effort to abate the spread of this virus.

The Newport Police Department can be reached at (603)863-3232. Further information about the COVID-19 virus, and the recommendations pertaining to individual responses thereto, can be found on the Town of Newport's website at [www.newportnh.gov](http://www.newportnh.gov).

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