

PRESS RELEASE
April 7, 2021 revised

Update on Town & Village access to services during the COVID-19 pandemic

ESSEX JCT. – In response to the Governor’s Executive Order extending the State of Emergency and guidance from the Vermont Department of Health, the Town of Essex and Village of Essex Junction will be offering services as detailed below through at least April 30, 2021. The municipalities will continue to require residents to adhere to certain guidelines when visiting municipal facilities. The municipalities continue to encourage staff to work remotely if possible.

Departmental updates include the following:

Clerk

The Clerk’s Office at 81 Main St. is allowing **one person at a time** for title searches and marriage licenses. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Applicants for marriage licenses must have completed the application which can be found on the Clerk’s page at www.essexvt.org. Both parties need to sign the application, but only one party needs to bring the application in to have the license issued. Online public access to land records can also be found on the Clerk’s page. For more info call 879-0413. **All other Clerk services will be offered remotely by phone, email, website, or drop box.**

Libraries

Brownell and Essex Free libraries will continue offering curbside service for materials loaning and a large variety of online resources that can be accessed with your library card. There continues to be no public access to the buildings. For Essex Free Library, curbside service is available Monday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturdays from 9 am to noon. Brownell Library is offering curbside service Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Wednesdays noon to 8 pm.

Parks & Recreation

Offices/Programs: The Essex Junction Recreation and Parks (EJRP) and Essex Parks and Recreation (EPR) offices at 75 Maple Street are open through Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm via their walk-up service window. There is a barrier between our staff and the public, but we request that you wear a mask, as other members of the public may pass by you or be waiting. If someone is with our Customer Service Specialist and you need to wait, please wait at least 6 feet back. We are excited to be back in the office and would love to interact with you, and we do believe that 95% of our customers’ needs can be served over the phone, via e-mail, online, and through the mail. We strongly encourage people to utilize these methods to remotely connect with us to assist you.

Parks: (November 2020 update) In response to the Governor’s update to outdoor recreation, Essex Parks have allowed the following updates to park amenities in accordance to CDC guidelines and municipal approval. This is subject to change at any time.

- Arrive, Play and Leave - Groups may not congregate before or after activities. Please park in designated lots/areas only.
- If you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID, please refrain from visiting.

- Current organized group size: No more than 2 from separate households at this time. Organized groups from separate households are not allowed at this time
- Fields, courts, skatepark, and disc golf are open. Physical distancing guidelines still remain in place. Playgrounds are open, along with picnic tables as long as they remain at least 6 feet apart. Please do not visit if you or someone from your household is ill. Please wash your hands before and after using amenities, mind physical distancing from others, and do not touch your face.
- The designated dog park on West Street is open. Visitors are asked to social distance and face masks are preferred.
- Indian Brook Reservoir is open. Once staff is on-site, you must have a season's pass to gain access to the park. Day use passes will be available to purchase in early May. Dogs must be always leashed in the parking lots, picnic area, roadways and boat launch. Dogs can be taken off their leash once on the trail network and respectfully be re-leashed before exiting the trail. Violations may result in the suspension or termination of passes.
- Remember, what you may be comfortable with doesn't mean that others feel the same. Be respectful of one another.

Parks, trails, and open spaces: These remain open as an important resource for health and wellness, as long as they are used in a safe manner. Keep a 6 foot physical distance from other individuals not with your group at all times. While on trails, warn other users if you need to pass, and only pass when you can maintain a 6 foot physical distance away.

Inquiries should be directed to 802-878-1376, recreation@ejrp.org or recmail@essex.org. More information can be found on the [Parks and Recreation Website](#).

Senior Center & Senior Van Program

The Senior Center remains closed, but staff have started to work on a reopening plan. The Senior Van program runs Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 2pm. Appointments for van rides can be made on Mondays between 9am to 2 pm by calling 878-6940. To register as a new rider, please call 878-6940 to request a ridership application.

Public Works

All public works offices remain closed to the public but the administrative staff is manning the office during normal working hours from Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Town Public Works office staff can be reached by e-mail at public-works@essx.org or telephone (878-1344) during normal working hours. Village Public Works can be reached at 878-6944 or by email at pw@essexjunction.org. Requests for public works service can also be submitted via the See-Click-Fix app at www.essexjunction.org or www.essexvt.org.

Police and Fire Departments

Emergency services (police, fire & rescue) continue to deliver all emergency services to our community. For general non-emergency questions, you can call (802) 878-8331 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Other Departments

Municipal staff in Assessing, Community Development, Finance, and the Manager's Office are working primarily remotely. These departments remain available to assist customers by phone and electronically, even as the physical locations remain closed to the public. Residents and customers are asked to conduct all municipal business electronically, by phone, or by mail. For any business that cannot be conducted remotely, staff will be available by appointment only. To reach these departments:

DEPARTMENT	EMAIL	PHONE
Assessor	assessor@essex.org	878-1345
Town Community Development	Community-development@essex.org	878-1343
Village Community Development	Village_CommDev@essex.org	878-6950
Finance Department	finance@essex.org	878-1359
Village water/sewer questions	utilitybilling@essex.org	857-0073
Town water/sewer questions	utilitybilling@essex.org	878-1359
Accounts Payable	AP@essexjunction.org or Toe.Finance@essex.org	878-1359
Manager's Office	manager@essex.org	878-1341

When entering municipal buildings, the public must wear masks and gloves. Staff will also ask screening questions before allowing visitors to enter.

The Town and Village are committed to doing our part to keep the public and our staff healthy while preventing the spread of COVID-19, while also providing the best public service possible. We continue to closely monitor guidelines for re-opening and any training plans necessary. The best sources to stay informed are the Vermont Department of Health (www.healthvermont.gov) and the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) websites. These resources are updated daily and contain helpful tips for hygiene and preventing the spread of the virus.

We will continue to evaluate the situation and use guidance from the Vermont Health Department. Additional information will be shared with any changes to Town and Village services. Please check www.essexvt.org and www.essexjunction.org for updates.

For more information, contact Greg Duggan, Deputy Manager/Public Information Officer (802-878-1341, gduggan@essex.org) or Tammy Getchell, Assistant to the Manager/Deputy Public Information Officer (802-878-6951, tgetchell@essex.org).