



## TOWN OF HAMILTON

### Town Manager

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For more information contact:  
Pat Shannon  
Assistant to the Town Manager/  
Community Preservation Coord.  
[pshannon@hamiltonma.gov](mailto:pshannon@hamiltonma.gov)

## Local Cumberland Farms Store closed for cleaning

(Hamilton, MA) – On behalf of the Hamilton health department, Town Manager Joseph Domelowicz today reported that town officials have been in contact with representatives of Cumberland Farms about their recent decision to close their Hamilton store for cleaning, out of an abundance of caution, due to the possible exposure of an employee of the store to the COVID-19 virus.

According to local health officials, who have been in contact with the retail chain's representatives, Cumberland Farms' corporate policy during the pandemic has been to close stores and pay employees, whenever there is reason to believe an employee may have come into contact with a positive coronavirus case. Due to privacy laws, specific details about the case that may have impacted the Hamilton store cannot be released. However, the retail chain did decide to close the store out of an abundance of caution, to have the store cleaned and have employees tested.

Locally, the health department reports there have been no new positive cases of the virus in Hamilton, including during the period when there may have been an exposure to a Cumberland farms employee. Additionally, health officials note that the precautions taken by employees of the store and by patrons while visiting the store, mean that it is unlikely any customer would be considered a "contact" even if an employee did/or does test positive, which has not been confirmed to date.

Precautions that are meant to keep shoppers safe include, but are not limited to:

- Required social distancing within the store
- All employees and shoppers are required to wear masks
- Employees frequently wash/disinfect hands and equipment and wear gloves when serving food items to customers
- Checkout points, cashier stands, have plexiglass shields
- All positive contacts are properly contact traced through the state's system, such that known contacts to any case are personally notified by a contact tracing specialist