

# A MESSAGE FROM AUBURN MAYOR JASON J. LEVESQUE

In these unprecedented times, it is more important than ever for us to take action to help protect ourselves, our families, our businesses and our community.

I strongly urge all residents of Auburn to take to heart and adhere to the **Executive Order** issued today by Governor Janet Mills.

I encourage residents of all ages to remain safely at home whenever possible. Please do not venture out unless it is imperative that you do so.

The closure of non-essential businesses will have an impact, but be assured that *essential* facilities and services, such as health care, pharmacies, grocery stores, banks, gas stations, etc. will remain operational to meet needs and allow access to supplies.

It is important to note that Auburn's **restaurants** can remain open, provided they offer drive-through, delivery and/or curbside pick-up only.

To connect with the State of Maine for guidance on essential/non-essential status, businesses should email: **business.answers@maine.gov**.

It is *imperative* that we all continue to practice social distancing, and that we avoid all gatherings of more than 10 people at a time. Always ensure that there is at least 6 feet of space between you and the next person, even when standing in line.

I call upon local businesses, utilities, etc. to consider extended grace periods to allow those who find themselves in financial hardship as a result of this pandemic to pay when they can without fear of foreclosure, service termination, fees, penalties and other repercussions. I further implore local landlords to work closely with your tenants to help them through this challenging time to avoid/pause evictions and keep our residents safely in their homes until this is all behind us.

To the residents of neighboring communities: I implore you not to visit or pass through Auburn until all risk of COVID-19 has passed. I ask this in an effort to safeguard our municipality and yours. If you do come to Auburn, please be specific and efficient in your visit.

City government remains operational, but some of our employees are "teleworking" from home. Our first responders remain on the job, 24/7, and stand ready to protect our great city and the people who live here. I urge you to make use of our many online services and resources; our website, **www.auburnmaine.gov**, is a great place to start.

**We are all in this together, Auburn.** We will stand strong, support each other, and come out on the other side of this stronger and more determined than ever.

