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Contact: Mayor's Office, 781-286-8111



## **City of Revere Response to COVID-19: September 16, 2020 Update**

### ***City of Revere and RevereTV Launch COVID-19 Storytelling Platform***

*Individuals who have recovered from the virus hope to educate others about its impacts*

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – The City of Revere's Emergency Response Team continues to monitor impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and develop policies and procedures to maintain public health and safety for all in Revere. As of September 16, the Revere Board of Health has been notified by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health of 2,587 cases of COVID-19 in the City of Revere. The City is averaging 13.4 new cases a week. The City has also been informed of an additional COVID-19 death, bringing the total deceased to 100.

Today the City of Revere and RevereTV launched a COVID-19 storytelling platform for individuals who have recovered from the virus to share their experiences with the community, and their own feelings about the importance of existing safety guidelines and precautions, including mask wearing and social distancing. The platform has been made available on RevereTV's YouTube channel and small vignettes have been developed for social media use. The first four testimonials include a range of community members and experiences with the virus:

- Elayna O'Neil – A 66-year-old resident who contracted COVID-19 and returned from the hospital after a 45-day stay, including 20 days on a ventilator. Elayna shares the emotional and physical impacts she continues to experience, even after being released from the hospital in May.
- Marvin Pena – A 35-year-old veteran and marathon runner who was diagnosed in March along with several members of his family. After going to the hospital in March, he spent five weeks in the Intensive Care Unit and 23 days in a coma, causing him to lose his memory for a few weeks. Marvin also shares the impacts the virus has had on his small business.

- Sara Restrepo -- A professional singer who has recovered from COVID-19, along with her husband. Sara went to the hospital three times to be put on oxygen during her illness, and struggled with being isolated from her family. Sara's interview was filmed in Spanish.
- Britney Sao – A 19-year-old resident who contracted the virus along with her mother and father, who spent 45 days in the ICU without visitor access. Britney stresses the importance of mask wearing and following proper safety guidelines so less people have to experience what her family did.

The City of Revere's Emergency Response Team is grateful to these community members for sharing their stories. If you or someone you love has been impacted by COVID-19 and would like to be a part of the campaign, please reach out to [covid19@revere.org](mailto:covid19@revere.org).

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