



Race Point Lighthouse
Wood End Lighthouse
Long Point Lighthouse
Provincetown, MA

March 19, 2020, revised March 28, 2020, revised April 10, 2020

To: General Public, RPL portal on website, Facebook, Instagram, American Lighthouse Foundation, CC-NPS, USCG Warwick RI, Provincetown Chamber of Commerce
Subject: **Informational Notice of Cancellation of all RPL 2020 Seasonal activities**
From: Race Point Lighthouse BOD-President Gary A. Childs

Where to start? This is by far one of the hardest notices to write. First, know that all our Keepers that all of you are/have volunteered your time at RPL and it is appreciated. And next, to the Keeper House (KH) and Whistle House (WH) Guests, you are all appreciated for your time spent at RPL taking in the sea and shore. Your stay with us has supported our Mission Statement for the restoration and preservation of RPL and other American Lighthouse Foundation (ALF) Lighthouses. **It is with deep regret that the RPL BOD and ALF announce that the Cape Cod Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation, Race Point Lighthouse Station will not open for the 2020 Season.** The KH and WH are congregate housing with close quarters. Even the ride out to the Station in the ORVs is close quarters. Some cape towns have canceled their first week of July activities and fireworks. **It is our intention to reopen the Station for the 2021 Season after we have more information and such. Time will tell.** Other lighthouses across the country are canceling their tours where folks are in tight quarters in the tower and lantern room.

With an abundance of precautions, and for our Guests and Keepers, we will remain closed due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Most of our Keepers are older and we can not protect them while they are out there. Under the current CDC and USA guidelines we cannot comply with the social distancing and cleaning standards in a structure that was built with the common kitchen, dining, and bathroom setup. Some of you are aware of the typical Spring chores that take place out there, from construction and clean up. That cannot happen now. Those Guests that have stayed out there are aware of the traditional turnover which does not allow for a deeper cleaning than has been done in the past during Guest and/or Keeper changeovers. All bathrooms, showers, bedrooms, and kitchens would have to be disinfected multiple times/day.

Many Lighthouses and Museums are having to change their daily operations. Access to/from the Station also has some issues regarding erosion and the threatened, not endangered, plovers. This does not lend to quick emergency action/access. As I write this, the Cape Cod National Seashore, CACO NPS, has closed all their recreational areas, but not the beach just yet. They have delayed their ORV Inspections and operations are in alignment with Massachusetts. These are changing times as we all work through this infectious disease progression this spring, summer, and fall.

Events:

All events for the RPL 2020 Season are canceled. Other ALF Lighthouses may or may not open later in the Season. Little River LH may also operate from with a delayed opening, or full closure for this year. If you are interested in viewing them during your in-house time, go to <http://www.lighthousefoundation.org/>. Many Lighthouses are posting virtual tours on social media. We will try to do the same to keep the LH available "virtually." External camera photos will be shared.

Monies and Cancellations:

Our RPL Mission Statement is for the preservation and restoration of the Station and the general public access to the property. Our income goes toward this. We will encourage visitors to our website to consider making a financial donation to help support the RPL Mission Statement beyond this current closure. ALF is also moving ahead with their overall organizational mission and exploring monetary options that will potentially ease the burdens caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Updates: We will post updates on our website www.racepointlighthouse.org and Social Media.

Be well and Sincerely, Gary Childs & Renée Atherton, Clay & Nancy Beless, Wade & Diane Barstow,
Ron & Janice Hewins, John & Joanne Clevenger, Lisa Deford

CC: American Lighthouse Foundation— President Jeremy D'Entremont, Bob & Ann Trapani,
Race Point Lighthouse Board of Directors, Reservation's Manager Allie Heidron
Cape Cod Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation