

Quarterly List of WGBH - TV Programming Providing the Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues

WGBH - TV
April to June 2020

I. Education/Schools/Youth

Greater Boston, L 04/09/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Mass. Education Commissioner On The State's Guidance For Online Learning During COVID-19 Pandemic” – The spread of coronavirus led to sudden closures of schools in Massachusetts, first just in pockets, and later state-wide on Governor Charlie Baker’s order. The quick switch forced schools to figure out on-the-fly how to ensure access to education for all students, taking into account different levels of online access and varying learning needs. Emily Rooney discussed the guidelines with Massachusetts Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley.

Greater Boston, L 06/10/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“As Teacher Lay Offs Loom, Should Schools Seek Private Donations?” – Communities across the state are grappling with a dramatic drop-off in local revenues in the wake of the COVID-19 shutdowns. The Massachusetts Teachers Association is predicting thousands of teacher layoffs. As Stephanie Leydon reports, some say it’s time to consider unconventional sources of funding.

PBS Newshour, N 05/14/20, 6pm, 60 min.

Colleges and universities across the country are wrestling with how and when to reopen for classes in the fall. While some are planning to bring students and faculty back to campus, others feel such a move would be unwise and will conduct only online learning. Judy Woodruff talks to Timothy White, chancellor of California State University, about his institution’s shift to mostly remote classes.

II. Housing/Urban Development

PBS Newshour, N 04/09/20, 6pm, 60 min.

Many Americans affected by the coronavirus pandemic are struggling to pay their rent when they have lost income and haven’t yet been able to secure unemployment money. Missed rent, in turn, adds up to landlords who can’t pay their mortgages or property tax. And then cities and states will struggle to provide the basic services that tax payments fund. Paul Solman reports on this “looming cascade.”

PBS Newshour, N 05/19/20, 6pm, 60 min.

Top U.S. economic officials are being pressed for answers about government relief efforts amid COVID-19. Pennsylvania Republican Sen. Pat Toomey sits on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, as well as the Congressional Oversight Commission that monitors spending from the CARES Act. Toomey joins Judy Woodruff to discuss why he isn't ready to deliver more federal aid to states.

III. Public Safety/Crime/Justice

Greater Boston, L 04/13/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Coronavirus Isolation Measures May Contribute To Increase In Domestic Violence and Abuse, Says Toni Troop of Jane Doe Inc.” – For survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, being quarantined at home — with a sudden loss of support networks — can be dangerous. In a press conference last week, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito addressed this issue, stressing to the public that judges are still available 24 hours a day to process restraining orders and that many advocates are still reachable online and over the phone.

Greater Boston, L 06/01/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Former Public Safety Secretary Andrea Cabral And Former Boston NAACP President Michael Curry On Nationwide Protests Against Systemic Racism” – Protests and marches fanned out across the United States this weekend, sparked by the police killing of unarmed black man George Floyd last week. In Boston, thousands of protesters marched on Sunday from Roxbury to the State House, chanting peacefully and demonstrating with signs. Later that night, the groups that remained grew unruly, turning to looting and property destruction of businesses and police cars, primarily in the downtown area, while police officers with batons deployed tear gas and pepper spray.

PBS Newshour, N 05/29/20, 6pm, 60 min.

Minneapolis is bracing for a possible fourth consecutive night of violent protest. Outrage has gripped the city -- and the country -- since the Monday death of George Floyd at the hands of city police. On Friday, the white police officer who knelt on Floyd's neck as he gasped for breath was arrested. Yamiche Alcindor reports and Judy Woodruff speaks with special correspondent Fred de Sam Lazaro.

IV. Needs of Special Interest Groups

Greater Boston, L 04/16/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Rep. Jon Santiago Says Data Shows Coronavirus Is Hitting Black And Latino Communities Harder” – Data released by the City of Boston last week showed that in the number of cases in Boston where race was identified, 40 percent were black. Black residents only make up 25 percent of the city’s population. The Massachusetts Department of Health released similar numbers last week, showing that black and Latinos made up 37 percent of the cases in the state where race was identified. Massachusetts state representative Jon Santiago, who also works as an emergency room physician at Boston Medical Center, joined Emily Rooney to discuss.

PBS Newshour, N 05/06/20, 6pm, 60 min.

A black family in Georgia is pressing authorities to act after the shooting death of their son. In late February, Ahmaud Arbery was killed after two white men chased him, but no charges have been filed. Now, shocking video apparently depicting the incident has emerged -- and is stirring outrage nationwide. Yamiche Alcindor reports.

PBS Newshour, N 05/11/20, 6pm, 60 min.

For more than 60 million Americans with disabilities, the rapid spread of COVID-19 is especially dangerous. Many live in long-term care facilities, and they are twice as likely to experience poverty as those without disability. But so far, legislation has fallen short on help. We hear some of their stories, and Stephanie Sy talks to Rebecca Cokley of the Center for American Progress.

V. Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

Greater Boston, L 05/01/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“What Is The Future Of Work In A Post-Coronavirus World?” – The coronavirus pandemic has led to widespread unemployment, a giant shift to working from home in many sectors, and increased activism calling for better pay, safety standards, and sick leave policies for those still working in the service sector and other low-income jobs. What will the work world look like after the pandemic has passed? To discuss, Emily Rooney was joined by Robert Pozen from the MIT Sloan School of Management, who is also author of the book ‘Extreme Productivity.’

PBS Newshour, N 05/21/20, 6pm, 60 min.

U.S. transit workers have been hit hard by the coronavirus. More than 120 have died from the disease just within New York City Transit, and drivers and transport workers represent the second-largest share of work-related cases, according to a Harvard study. Sarah Feinberg, interim president of New York City Transit, joins William Brangham to discuss reducing risks for these essential workers.

PBS Newshour, N 04/16/20, 6pm, 60 min.

The U.S. is experiencing a sudden spike in unemployment not seen since the Great Depression. In about a month, 22 million lost their jobs, with many more cuts yet to come -- and a sense that even these staggering numbers don't represent the full picture of economic devastation. Here are voices of struggling Americans out of work or forced to cut back their businesses because of the pandemic.

VI. Environment/Ecology

PBS Newshour, N 05/20/20, 6pm, 60 min.

In our news wrap Wednesday, nearly 10,000 people in central Michigan have been ordered out of their homes after flooding breached two dams. A river and connected lakes have topped record levels, and they're still rising.

PBS Newshour, N 04/21/20, 6pm, 60 min.

As much of the globe continues to stay home to practice social distancing, vibrant cities have gone quiet, and animals are freer to roam. The rare absence of human activity grants us a special glimpse of what the world might be like without us in it. Jeffrey Brown has the story for ongoing coverage of arts and culture, Canvas.

Amanpour and Company, N 04/22/20, 11pm, 60 min.

Sir David Attenborough joins Christiane for an Earth Day conversation about the wonder and fragility of our planet. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee discusses the twin threats of COVID-19 and the climate crisis. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright explains the urgent need for American diplomacy in this time of crisis.

VII. Medical and Mental Health/Social Services

Greater Boston, L 04/01/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Researcher From Widely-Cited COVID-19 Model Says Stay-At-Home Mandate Would Save Lives” – The outlook for the potential number of coronavirus deaths became more dire Wednesday as a highly-cited prediction model revised its numbers, forecasting that nearly 94,000 Americans will die from COVID-19 by August 4. Just yesterday, the model from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington was predicting 10,000 fewer deaths by that date. The model also anticipated a continued shortage of hospital beds in the United States in future weeks. To discuss, Jim Braude was joined by one of the researchers behind the numbers, Dr. Ali Mokdad, an epidemiologist and professor at the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

Greater Boston, L 04/15/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“UMass Memorial Healthcare CEO Says Central Mass. Is Keeping Up With Coronavirus Demand 'Just Fine'” – With traditional hospitals filling up with coronavirus patients, and the worst days expected ahead, field hospitals have opened across the state to alleviate the pressure on the healthcare system. Dr. Eric Dickson, the president and chief executive officer of UMass Memorial Health Care — the system responsible for operating the DCU Center field hospital in Worcester — said the partnership between the city, state and his organization enabled the facility to go up in just eight days.

Greater Boston, L 05/19/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Medical Ethicist: To Speed Up Vaccine Development, Infect People With Coronavirus” – The coronavirus pandemic has brought about a range of ethical questions for medical practitioners and scientists, including a growing debate about whether it is ethical to purposefully inject willing subjects with the virus to help speed up clinical trials to find a vaccine. To discuss, Jim Braude was joined by Arthur Caplan, founding head of the Division of Medical Ethics at NYU.

VIII. Economy/Business

Greater Boston, L 04/06/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Small Business Loan Program Is 'Getting Moving Now' In Mass After Days Of 'Flaws,' Says Local SBA Official” – The federal coronavirus stimulus package enacted last month included a \$349 billion loan program for small businesses. But since the program’s rollout last Friday, there have been widespread reports of technical glitches, strict eligibility requirements, and red tape getting in between the funds and the business that

need it. Jim Braude was joined by Norman Eng, a public affairs specialist with the Small Business Administration's Massachusetts office to speak on the matter.

Greater Boston, L 05/08/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“More Local Businesses Push For Reopening As Mass. Eases Some Coronavirus Restrictions” – Mayor Marty Walsh announced Friday that all major events in Boston are cancelled for the summer, although some businesses and venues statewide are starting to open in stages, including golf courses. Now, more local business owners are pushing to be among the first to get the green light to open. To discuss, Emily Rooney was joined by David Anderlman, who owns the Mendon Twin Drive-In movie theatre and wants to re-open, and NECN political commentator and co-publisher of Bay Windows, Sue O’Connell.

Greater Boston, L 06/16/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Greenwood Challenge' In Boston Calls On Corporate Community To Address Racial Economic Inequality” – While a call for structural change to policing has been at the heart of many protests across the country, demonstrators have also been shining a light on other forms of systemic racism, including longstanding economic disparities. To discuss, Jim Braude was joined by Segun Idowu, executive director of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, and Herby Duverné, CEO of the security consulting firm The Windwalker Group. Duverné has kicked off the Greenwood Challenge with a \$100,000 donation to BECMA, and is calling on the corporate community to similarly donate and to commit to addressing the racial wealth gap.

IX. Family/Morality/Religion

Greater Boston, L 05/26/20, 7pm, 30 min.

“Rev. Irene Monroe and Dr. Thea James On Re-Opening Churches And Socially Distancing At Home” – As public officials craft policies to enforce social distancing in the age of coronavirus, one of the contentious matters at hand has been whether to categorize houses of worship as ‘essential.’ In Massachusetts, churches, synagogues, and mosques have now been allowed to host limited gatherings for a week under Gov. Charlie Baker’s phased re-opening plan — but many worship communities are choosing not to exercise that right so far. To discuss, Jim Braude was joined by Rev. Irene Monroe, a syndicated religion columnist and co-host of WGBH’s ‘All Rev’d Up’ podcast; and Dr. Thea James, associate chief medical officer and vice president of mission at Boston Medical Center. The married couple was recently profiled in a **Boston Globe column** for their measures to safely practice social distancing due to their professions while living together at home: Monroe in the basement and James upstairs.

PBS Newshour, N 05/27/20, 6pm, 60 min.

Who will care for the children of working parents when they return to their jobs, if schools and many child care providers remain closed? The CARES Act allocated \$3.5 billion to support child care programs, but a national organization says many providers have yet to receive any funding. Special correspondent Cat Wise reports from Oregon, where a shortage of child care slots preceded the pandemic.

PBS Newshour, N 04/10/20, 6pm, 60 min.

The coronavirus pandemic has made this year's Holy Week one like never before. With stricken Italy extending a nationwide lockdown into May, Pope Francis has been holding services only via TV and online. And in Israel, the sacred sites of Jerusalem's Old City, touchstones of faith for three religions, remain empty. Special correspondent Sabina Castelfranco reports from Rome on an eerie Holy Week.

END REPORT