

The following information was updated March 12, 2020. Information will be updated as frequently as possible.

**Q: What information can you share with the public about any presumptive positive cases in Needham?**

A: Due to privacy laws, we cannot provide any additional specific information to the public including family information, places recently visited, or close contacts. Individuals who may have had contact with a presumed positive case will be contacted directly by Public Health nurses who will provide guidance for those individuals.

Confirmed COVID-19 cases will be announced by MDPH by county with the person's gender and general age to ensure patient confidentiality. No personal information will be shared publicly. The individual may disclose their own health information. MDPH and CDC guidance will be followed to communicate with people who may have been a close contact of a person with COVID-19 to reduce the spread of illness.

**Q: Needham Announced That it Has a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in the Community. What can you tell me? Am I at risk?**

A: The resident has been quarantined and does not pose a risk to the public. There is currently no evidence of community spread in Needham and there is no evidence of exposure in Town or school buildings. Public Health and Town officials are working with State officials to communicate with anyone who may have had close contact with this presumptive case to reduce any spread of illness. You will only be notified if we believe you are at risk. If necessary, additional public information will be posted at [needhamma.gov/health](http://needhamma.gov/health)

**Q: Does the person with COVID-19 have school children?**

A: Because of privacy laws, we cannot disclose any person's family status. However, working with state officials, it was determined that the schools are not impacted by this individual case.

**Q: What's happening with the schools generally?**

A: School-specific information is provided by the Needham Public Schools.

**Q: How are our public buildings including our schools being cleaned?**

A: Our public buildings, including our schools, are all regularly cleaned. This includes disinfecting bathrooms and wiping down surfaces. Our State and Federal partners have stated that routine cleaning practices are appropriate at this time.

**Q: Why was the Center at the Heights Closed? When Will it Re-open?**

A: In the wake of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Baker March 10, 2020 and additional guidance issued by his administration, Needham Public Health and Town officials have closed the Center at the Heights (CATH) indefinitely. The CATH serves residents who are most at risk of contracting the virus. This is a proactive step to protect the patrons of the CATH. Staff of the CATH are working to provide alternative arrangements for seniors who need access to important services. For questions, call 781-455-7555 and leave a message.

**Q: Are Needham community events still happening? Should I Cancel my Event?**

As of March 12, 2020, MDPH has recommended that larger gatherings should be cancelled for the time being. In following that guidance, the Town has determined the following:

- All non-essential Town-sponsored events scheduled to occur in the next 30 days will be cancelled. This includes some board and commission meetings, community meetings, library and Park and Recreation events.
- Non-essential meetings/events hosted by external parties scheduled to be held in town facilities should be cancelled or postponed if scheduled to occur within the next 30 days.
- Most board meetings and commission meetings should be cancelled or postponed if scheduled within the next 30 days. If those meetings are necessary for the continued operation of government (or reflect statutory or regulatory obligations) and must take place in the next few weeks, precautions should be taken. Precautions include limiting agendas to critical items (eliminate ceremonial or other non-essential items), and taking extra health measures such as spacing chairs further apart, offering hand sanitizer, and individual pens rather than shared pens.
- run by Needham Community Education will continue. Middle school and high school athletic tryouts may also continue, but we will not have spectators at athletic events until further notice.
- If your event or meeting is scheduled more than 30 days out from today, you should continue to monitor the guidance offered by state and federal health officials. We will provide updates on the Town of Needham's website as appropriate.

**Q: What More Can I do to Keep Myself and My Family Healthy:**

A: Because guidance and information is changing rapidly and in real-time, you should regularly visit [MA DPH's website](#) as well as the [CDC's](#). Needham-specific information will be updated at [needhamma.gov/health](http://needhamma.gov/health)

**Q: Who Can I Contact In Needham if I have Additional Questions?**

A: If you have specific health concerns, please contact your provider. For other Needham-specific questions, you may contact Needham Public Health via email [publichealthnursing@needhamma.gov](mailto:publichealthnursing@needhamma.gov). You may also call 781-455-7934 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible during normal business hours.