

Update on COVID-19 From the Town of Needham and Needham Public Health

April 28, 2020 – The Town of Needham and Needham Public Health today provided the following update regarding COVID-19.

State DPH COVID-19 Numbers

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reporting that as of April 28, 2020 there are:

- 58,302 cases statewide
- 5,567 cases Norfolk County
- 3,153 deaths statewide
- 156 cases in Needham (as reported by DPH on 4/22)
- 33 coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (as reported by the Town Clerk on 4/27)

Board Adopts Emergency Order Requiring Face Coverings in Buildings in Needham

The Needham Board of Health adopted an [emergency order](#) today requiring face coverings to be worn in buildings in Needham to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 infectious disease. The order seeks to limit the spread of COVID-19 by requiring the use of face coverings in a variety of settings including businesses work sites, and government buildings. The use of face coverings is also required in the common areas of commercial and residential building complexes. The requirement applies to employees as well as to customers, visitors, and the general public. The order takes effect at 6:01 am Friday, May 1, 2020 and remains in effect through June 16, 2020. The Town has created a [webpage](#) with information about the face covering order, how to make a homemade mask, proper wear and care of your mask and mask dos and don'ts.

Governor Extends Non-Essential Business Order, Stay at Home Guidance Until May 18

Governor Charlie Baker announced today that he is extending his order closing non-essential businesses and his stay-at-home advisory for residents until May 18. He also extended his ban on gatherings of more than 10 people until May 18. The Governor announced that he has created a re-opening advisory board to guide his decision-making about best to re-open while keeping people safe. Town buildings remain closed until further notice.

Needham Youth and Family Services Launches Resiliency Flag Project

In challenging circumstances filled with fear and uncertainty, people time and time again have displayed their strength and resilience in creative ways to spread joy and hope to those around them. Flags are flown with pride to show our connections to larger groups -- be it countries, states, or towns. Now more than ever, we could use flags displayed to promote solidarity with our neighbors and every individual facing the hardships COVID-19. The Needham Youth & Family Services Division is encouraging everyone to make and display their own flags to show their resiliency. Here is a short [video](#) of what the Y&FS team has designed as well as [the flag template](#) here for you and your family. We can't wait to see what resiliency means to you!

Select Board Meets Tonight at 6 pm

The Select Board will virtually tonight at 6 pm. The agenda includes an update on COVID-19 and discussion about the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting dates. The meeting can be accessed via ZOOM at <https://zoom.us/j/93410141176>

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