



# **NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



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

April 3, 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 3, 2020 there are:

- 10,402 cases statewide
- 1,045 Norfolk County
- 192 deaths statewide
- \* Note, this is NOT new information. As of 3/31/20: Needham has had a total of 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and nine community members have recovered from the virus. Two public safety employees have confirmed cases. Town data is updated Tuesdays at 5 pm.

It's important to remember that most people who are confirmed to have COVID-19 recover. For more state data, visit [www.mass.gov/coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/coronavirus).

### **Your Question: Should I Be Wearing a Mask?**

Our public health staff is working hard to answer your important questions. With so much conflicting guidance, you asked, "Should I be wearing a mask in public?"

Currently, the CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms. This is to protect others from the risk of getting infected.

Medical masks are a barrier protection against exposure to droplets from an infected person. Civilians should NOT be wearing N95 masks or other medical masks in public, unless explicitly instructed by their own medical professional. PPE is in low supply and must be available for use by the medical professionals and first responders who are at a much higher risk of exposure.

Here is a [helpful chart](#) from the CDC.

We understand you may be anxious and want to protect yourself and your family. Homemade masks create a barrier, but are not guaranteed to stop the spread of the disease. The best thing you can do is wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer when touching high-contact surfaces. Avoid touching your face.

The best thing you can do is practice social distancing.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donations**

Thank you to everyone who has donated PPE for front-line workers. Needham Public Health has received donations of masks and gloves from residents, The Chinese Friends of Needham, Needham Public Schools and others that have been shared with first responders and healthcare workers. Beginning Monday, a donation bin will be available for donation of PPE outside at the Rosemary Recreation Complex. Deliveries can be made between 10 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday.



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## **Application Deadline Extended for Needham Property Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled**

The deadline for submitting applications to the Property Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled and Property Tax Assistance funds has been extended until May 15. Applications are available on the Town's [website](#). Applications can be filled out and emailed to Nancy Martin at [nmartin@needhamma.gov](mailto:nmartin@needhamma.gov) or Evelyn Ponesse at [Eviep@needhamma.gov](mailto:Eviep@needhamma.gov)

## **Chalk Your Walk This Weekend**

We've loved seeing all your chalk messages spreading positivity and hope across the community. Let's keep it going! This Sunday, Park and Recreation is offering free bags of chalk to residents from 10 am to 12 pm at the Rosemary Recreation Complex. Come pick up a bag and help us chalk every walk in Needham!

## **Select Board Sets Fall Town Meeting Dates, Next Board Meeting**

The Select Board voted Friday to hold Fall Town Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020 with the possibility of a second night Wednesday, October 7. The Select Board will meet again virtually Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 4 pm. More details on how to join that meeting via Zoom will be provided next week. The Needham Channel will also stream the meeting on its channels.

## **Let Us Know How We're Doing**

Let us know how we're doing providing you the information you need. Take this 3-question [survey](#) to help us make these daily updates as helpful as possible going forward.

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