



# **NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



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

April 6, 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 6, 2020 there are:

- 13,837 cases statewide
- 1,382 Norfolk County
- 260 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).

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

Last Friday, we sent an update providing you with information that the CDC had issued to date on the necessity of wearing masks in public. At that time, the CDC was not recommending that people who were well and not showing symptoms of COVID-19 wear a mask to protect themselves from the disease.

Shortly after we sent that update, the CDC issued **NEW** guidance on face masks/coverings.

Today, the CDC is advising people to wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.

We have prepared an FAQ document with more information <http://needhamma.gov/4860/CDC-Face-MaskCovering-Guidance>

### **Deadline Extended for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Personal Property & Real Estate Tax Payments**

Due to the COVID-19 Health Emergency and the Declaration of Emergency made by Governor Baker, the fourth quarter fiscal year 2020 personal property tax and real estate tax payments that were due May 1, 2020 have been extended until Monday, June 1, 2020. This means that the FY2020 fourth quarter tax payment will be accepted without penalty or interest through June 1, 2020. In addition, 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 Poness at [Evieep@needhamma.gov](mailto:Evieep@needhamma.gov).



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## **Update on Building Inspections**

To continue important construction work and in accordance with the Governor's determination that construction activity is considered an essential service, the Building Department will continue to inspect on-going permit activity. However, given reduced staffing levels and social distancing, the Department will not issue demolition permits or new building permits for the time being. Emergency inspections will occur on a case-by-case basis.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donations at Rosemary Recreation Complex**

Thank you to everyone who has donated PPE for front-line workers. There is now 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.

## **Library Offers Harry Potter EBook and Audiobook Free to Patrons**

Throughout the month of April, Needham Free Public Library patrons have unlimited access to the ebook and audiobook editions of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, courtesy of Pottermore & OverDrive. The copies are currently displaying as the second collection on the OverDrive/Libby homepage, and will replace the current Big Library Read promotion [after April 13.](#)

What's exciting about this promotion:

- Now includes the audiobook edition
- Includes over 20 languages (Great for language learners & multilingual families)
- Includes accompanying activities at [harrypotterathome.com](http://harrypotterathome.com)
- .....It's Harry Potter!

April is also National Poetry Month. Head of Reference, Stefanie Claydon, is posting library staff members reading poetry all month on Facebook.

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