Needham Public Health Division

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

April 21, 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 21, 2020 there are:

- 41,199 cases statewide
- 4,062 cases Norfolk County
- 1,961 deaths statewide
- 114 cases in Needham (as reported by DPH on 4/15)

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.

Governor Closes Schools for the Remainder of the School Year, Requires Remote Learning

Governor Baker announced today that public and private schools across Massachusetts will remain closed for the rest of the school year, and that students and teachers will engage in remote learning until the conclusion of the academic year. For more information on how this impacts Needham Public Schools, visit http://www.needham.k12.ma.us/. You can also follow NPS Superintendent Dan Gutekanst on Twitter @NPS_Supt.

The Governor also announced that childcare centers will continue to be closed until June 29. Emergency childcare centers will continue to provide care for children of health care workers, first responders and essential employees. More information can be found here.

How to Properly Wear and Care for Your Homemade Mask

Lots of people are learning to make their own homemade masks or are now wearing those made by friends and family. To make sure you're wearing the mask properly and to keep it in good condition, here are a few important tips:

1) Put your name on it. Don't share!
2) If your mask has pleats, pull the top and bottom parts of the mask apart to enlarge it
3) Put the elastic around your ears
4) If your mask has a wire in the top seam, mold the top of the mask to fit your nose and cheeks.
5) **Your mask should cover your nose and mouth at all times**

How to remove the mask after wearing it:

1) Wash hands thoroughly.
2) Be very careful! Remove by the elastic. Do not touch the outside of the mask. Imagine it is covered in glitter that you don't want to get all over you or scattered about the house. Remove mask. Place face down on paper towel
4) Put mask in hot wash.
5) Wash hands again thoroughly
6) After hot wash: hot dryer and hot iron to refresh

Your mask should be washed after every time you wear it.

Needham Public Health Division

NOTE: Homemade masks are not FDA approved. They will not completely protect you from COVID-19. They provide light protection and remind you not to touch your face. They also help prevent the spread of germs from you to others. Your mask protects others. The masks of others protect you.

Youth and Family Services and Aging Services Staff Team Up to Offer "Phone Pal Program"
Staff at Needham Youth and Family Services and the Aging Services Division have teamed up to help keep seniors engaged while they're at home during COVID-19. Students in grades 6-12 are making phone calls to seniors in Needham to check in on them and create new friendships. The program helps students get their required volunteer hours while preventing seniors from social isolation. The program has had a successful first few weeks. If you are a parent of a student looking to participate, please contact Sara Shine at sshine@needhamma.gov or 781-898-5132. For seniors who want to participate, contact Aicha Kelley at Akelley@needhamma.gov. Learn more about the program in this Needham Channel segment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_ZEOAcKOJE&feature=youtu.be