



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



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

April 24, 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 24, 2020 there are:

- 50,969 cases statewide
- 4,979 cases Norfolk County
- 2,556 deaths statewide
- 156 cases in [Needham](#) (as reported by DPH on 4/22)

According to the state DPH, Today's data reflects a correction of a reporting error made by Quest, a national commercial laboratory, which affected case counts in multiple states including Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health received a backlog this week of almost 10,000 patient results (both positive and negative) from Quest dating back to April 13. These cases are included for the first time in today's data.

To most accurately reflect real-time trends, DPH sorted the Quest backlog and incorporated confirmed cases into state data based on when those test results should have been reported. In today's dashboard, daily case counts from April 13 through today now reflect the corrected data.

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.

Be Alert – Avoid Contact Tracing Scams

The State Department of Public Health and Needham Public Health is warning residents about COVID-19 scams related to the state's contact tracing program. Scammers are identifying themselves as part of the Community Tracing Collaborative and asking individuals for their social security number and health insurance information. **Please know, the official Community Tracing Collaborative will never ask you for this information.** If you receive a call like this, please email Needham Public Health at publichealthnursing@needhamma.gov.

How the state's Community Tracing Collaborative Works:

The COVID Community Team will reach out via phone and text to confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and anyone they've been in contact with to trace and contain the onward spread of the virus by arranging testing, as well as medical and quarantine support. They will not release your name to anyone. Phone calls will use the prefix 833 and 857 and your phone will say the call is from "MA COVID Team." Calls will be made daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Learn more about the Community Tracing Collaborative. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-the-community-tracing-collaborative#what-happens-during-the-call->

Share Your Parenting Pandemic Stories

The [Substance Prevention Alliance Network](#) is inviting Needham parents to participate in "Stories from the Inside," a collection of stories from parents about their experience as a parent during COVID-19. SPAN is looking for a broad range of stories, everything from the new hobby you've taken up, to the family argument that keeps happening; from the real issues you're facing, to your favorite way to pass the time. What are YOUR stories from the inside (of your home)? "Stories from the Inside" will be collected and shared (anonymously) on the SPAN Website (www.spanneedham.org) & Facebook page (@SPANNeedham). 500 or words or less, please. Submit your story to storiesfromtheinside2020@gmail.com, or check out <https://www.spanneedham.org/parents> for more information.



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For the Kids – Read to Tucker the Dog Online April 28th

The Needham Free Public Library will host a virtual session of Read to Tucker the Dog on Tuesday, April 28th. Sign up for a time slot to Read with Tucker Online using Google Meet. To read to Tucker online, you need a computer or iPad with a camera and microphone and a book to read! You do not need a Google Account. Questions? contact ldolan@minlib.net. You can sign up [here](#).

Share Your Good News

While this is a difficult time for many of us, the Coronavirus pandemic has brought out the best in our community. In the survey we issued earlier this month, you told us you want more positive stories from Needham. So, tell us – what positive stories are out there? You can email goodnews@needhamma.gov to share your story. We'll post stories, photos and videos on our website and on in our Daily Updates. We also share these stories on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Be sure to follow us!

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