



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



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

March 17, 2020 – The Town of Needham and Needham Public Health today provided the following update regarding COVID-19.

Statement Re: COVID-19 Cases in Needham

Please see the statement release today regarding the release of COVID-19 cases in Needham:

http://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21014/statement_3172020

Related FAQ: http://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21015/FAQ_3172020

State DPH COVID-19 Numbers

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Cases in MA

As of March 17, 2020

Confirmed Cases Reported = 218

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES
County	
Barnstable	2
Berkshire	14
Bristol	5
Essex	8
Hampden	1
Middlesex	89
Norfolk	43
Plymouth	5
Suffolk	42
Worcester	8
Unknown	1
Sex	
Female	102
Male	116
Exposure	
Biogen and household contacts	102
Local transmission	33
Travel related	24
Under investigation	59
Hospitalization	
Patient was hospitalized	21
Patient was not hospitalized	145
Under Investigation	52



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Daycares Ordered Closed

On March 16, 2020, Needham-based daycares were notified that effective close of business, they were to suspend operations until April 6, 2020. In a time when the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of a novel infectious disease and when social distancing to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus has been employed at the state and the local level, the operation of a facility that feeds and cares for children in close quarters presents an unacceptable risk of spreading that infectious disease.

<http://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21002/Needham-Public-Health-Letter-re-Daycares-during-COVID-19-Outbreak>

Commuter Rail Operating Reduced Service Schedule

The MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services (Keolis), the agency's operating partner for Commuter Rail, announced yesterday that there will be a Reduced Service Schedule effective Tuesday, March 17. This service level provides a public transit option for people with essential travel needs, such as medical professionals and emergency responders, while helping to limit the spread of COVID-19 by encouraging people to practice social distancing and work-from-home when possible.

The Commuter Rail Reduced Service Schedule is available at www.MBTA.com/coronavirus and will proactively be handed out at major stations, such as North Station, Back Bay Station and South Station, on March 16 and available at ticket offices upon request. The Reduced Service Schedule applies to all lines and the modifications, while limited, support periods of peak travel while providing off-peak options throughout the day. Keolis and the MBTA will provide updates on service to passengers via Twitter at @MBTA_CR, MBTA.com, T-Alerts, station signage and onboard announcements.

Library Update

The Needham Free Public Library and Needham Public Health announced March 13th that the Library will be closed for the foreseeable future. This is an effort to practice social distancing, which helps stop the spread of COVID-19. During this time, patrons will be unable to access the library or check items out of the library. **The Library book drops have been closed and the Friends of the Library are not accepting donations at this time. The Minuteman Library Network has extended the checkout time for all materials currently checked out by one month. Fines for overdue items will be waived during this time.** We understand that closing the library is an inconvenience for the many individuals and families who rely on the services provided. We also know that it is a gathering space for many people in the community. Thank you for understanding and for your patience during this time. Staff will be available Monday-Friday 9 am – 5pm to answer reference questions. Please call in at 781-455-7559 ext. 218 (leave a message and we will get back to you) or by email at neemail1@minilib.net. While the library building is physically closed, patrons may still access myriad online databases from home. Patrons may access library magazines, videos, ebooks, audio books and music. Those without a library card can sign up for a temporary library card online. Visit www.needhamma.gov/library for more information.

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