



# **NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



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

May 8, 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 May 8, 2020 there are:

- 1,612 new cases today for a total of 75,333 cases statewide
- 6,801 cases in Norfolk County
- 150 new deaths today for a total of 4,702 deaths statewide
- 251 cases in Needham (as reported by DPH 5/6)
- 33 coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (as reported by the Town Clerk on 4/27. Next update will be 5/11.)
- Four public safety employees have had confirmed cases of COVID-19. Three have recovered.

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).

### **Upcoming Public Meetings - Park and Rec Commission, Board of Health, Select Board**

Several Town boards and commissions meet next week with issues related to COVID-19 on their agendas. The meeting schedule is as follows"

- [Park and Recreation Commission](#), Monday, May 11 at 7 pm. Watch via [Zoom](#).
- [Board of Health](#), Tuesday, May 12 at 9 am. Watch via [Zoom](#).
- [Select Board](#), Tuesday, May 12 at 6 pm. Watch via [Zoom](#).

Video of each meeting will be posted to the Town's [YouTube page](#) after the meeting.

### **Building Department to Begin Processing Construction Permits Monday**

Beginning Monday May 11, the Needham Building Department will again begin processing building and mechanical permits for all construction work including demolition and new building permits. Please be advised that the Building Department is still closed to the public and staff are working in ways that maintain social distancing. Given these precautions and the demand for permits, wait times for permit processing may be longer than normal. We appreciate your patience. All permit applications must be submitted electronically. <https://needhamma.viewpointcloud.com/>

Credit card payments are coming soon. Until then, you will need to pay by check. You can either mail your check, complete with permit number and property address to Needham Building Department, 500 Dedham Ave., Needham, MA 02492 OR drop your check in the lockbox at 500 Dedham Ave. or Needham Town Hall (1471 Highland Ave.)

### **A Word About Antibody Testing**

Given recent reports that cities, towns and healthcare facilities have begun offering antibody tests to individuals who have not been tested for COVID-19, the state Department of Public Health (DPH) is recommending individuals refrain from getting an antibody test until DPH issues additional guidance. Antibody testing varies widely and there is not enough information at this point to know whether a positive test indicates a person has immunity from the virus. If an individual does undergo an antibody



## NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



test and tests positive for the antibody, that person is advised to get a COVID-19 test and will be asked to isolate until the results of that test is known.

### **Happy Mother's Day**

To all the moms, stepmoms, grandmoms and other kinds of moms out there in Needham, we wish you a happy, restful and safe Mother's Day!

###