



# **NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



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

May 27, 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 27, 2020 there are:

- 527 new cases today for a total of 94,220 cases statewide
- 7,880 cases in Norfolk County
- 74 new deaths today for a total of 6,547 deaths statewide
- 311 cases in Needham as of 5/27/2020
- 56 coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (next report will be 6/8)
- Four public safety employees have had confirmed cases of COVID-19. All four 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).

### **Town Reopening Information Now Available, Buildings Re-open for Appointments June 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Town today [announced its initial reopening plans](#), following the Phase 1 reopening guidelines issued by the Commonwealth. Beginning June 1, 2020, all Town buildings except for the Center at the Heights and Needham Free Public Library will re-open to the public by appointment only.

Programming at the Center at the Heights will remain virtual for the time being. The Library will begin curbside pickup service for books and materials June 1. More information on accessing library items can be found [here](#). Both buildings will reopen to the public at a later date.

To book appointments, please visit the Town Departments [webpage](#) and select your intended department. Each department will have their own plans for servicing the public.

### **Requirements for the Public**

Under this initial reopening, any member of the public entering a Town building or facility must wear a face covering while in the building. In addition, the public is asked to maintain physical separation from employees and other visitors of at least six feet. Markings will be located on the floor to provide guidance and plexiglass barriers have been installed at customer-facing counters for protection. Buildings will be locked and those with appointments will need to ring the doorbell for entry. Only one person at a time will be allowed at a counter for service. Any individual who has symptoms of COVID-19 is asked to stay home and reschedule their appointment.

Many departments offer residents and businesses the ability to conduct transactions by phone, online or by mail. Individuals should check with their intended department to see if there are options for service in lieu of in-person.

### **Additional Health and Safety Practices**

The Town is taking numerous precautions to protect the health and safety of the public and employees. The first phase of the Town's reopening plan allows staff to return to their offices within the state's guidelines. All employees will be required to wear face coverings in shared offices and in communal space such as lobbies, restrooms and hallways. Employees will be required to sanitize high-touch areas frequently, including the plexiglass divider and counter between customers.

Employees are also required to check for COVID-19 symptoms daily before entering offices. Those who display symptoms must remain at home. Future phases of reopening will depend on public health measures and will be announced when they are determined. The Town will follow the State and CDC guidelines, but may choose to take additional precautions beyond those. For more information visit [www.needhamma.gov/reopeningneedham](http://www.needhamma.gov/reopeningneedham).