

### **COVID-19 Update**

October 15, 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 reports the number of positive cases and deaths daily on the state's COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

Town-specific case numbers are published by the state every Wednesday.

- 415 Needham cases to date (10/14/2020) Needham remains in the YELLOW category with 4.4 cases per 100,000 residents. This is Needham's third week as a YELLOW community. [See the most recent COVID-19 community map](#). The state has issued a [list](#) of communities not designated as low-risk. Needham is not currently on that list.
- 77 Coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (10/15/20). No new deaths have been reported since 6/25.

### **Needham Public Schools Offers COVID Dashboard**

The Needham Public Schools has launched a COVID-19 [dashboard](#) to provide information to residents about COVID-19 positive cases within the schools. Needham Public Schools is providing this report on the positive COVID-19 cases for students and staff in our schools by date range, with cases typically reported weekly on the week-ending date, plus the cumulative positive cases by school/building and in the district. The Schools are also urging members of the community to remember the 4 Ws: **Wash your hands! Wear a mask! Watch your distance! Wait at home if sick or awaiting test results!**

### **Park and Recreation Announces Fall Family Fun Day to Celebrate Halloween**

Families are invited to join Park and Recreation on Saturday, October 24th for a fun event outside at the Rosemary Recreation Complex to celebrate Halloween. Carve and/or decorate a pumpkin together to be featured in our night event - Jack-O-Lantern Drive-Thru! After you've carved a pumpkin, we invite you to enjoy a Halloween themed Story Walk along the Rosemary Trail. Six time slots are available: 9:00am - 10:00am, 10:15am – 11:15am, 11:30am – 12:30pm, 12:45pm – 1:45pm, 2:00pm – 3:00pm or 3:15pm – 4:15pm. Limit of 10 families per time slot. This community event is \$20 per family – online [registration](#) begins Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Pre-registration is required. (Thank you to Roche Brothers/Sudbury Farms and Volante Farm for help sponsoring this event.)

### **Jack-o-Lantern Drive-Thru**

The fun continues Saturday evening October 24 as Park and Recreation hosts a jack-o-lantern drive thru at the RRC. This **FREE** family event will feature the pumpkins that were carved and decorated at the Fall Family Fun Day event as well as others from the community. The drive-thru will be opened from 6:30 – 8:30pm. If you can't make it to the day event but still want to showcase your gourd-of-art, email [parkandrecreation@needhamma.gov](mailto:parkandrecreation@needhamma.gov) to find out how you can participate.

### **Early Voting Begins Saturday, Mail-in Ballots on Their Way**

Voters seeking to avoid long lines on Election Day can cast their ballots early beginning this Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Early voting will take place at Town Hall every day through Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. All voters must wear a face covering and practice social distancing while in Town Hall. Voting hours are as follows:

- Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: Noon to 5 pm

- Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: Noon to 5 pm
- Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> (excluding the weekends as noted above): 9 am to 5 pm

As of last week, the Town Clerk's Office had mailed over 13,000 ballots for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election to Needham voters and continues to send out ballots as applications are received. Ballots may be returned in the Big Red dropbox outside of Town Hall until 8 pm on November 3<sup>rd</sup> or mailed back to the Town Clerk. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 pm. **Please place your ballot inside the brown envelope and sign the envelope. Then place it in the white envelope. If it is not signed or inside the white envelope when it is mailed or dropped in the drop box , it will be rejected.** Visit the Town Clerk's [webpage](#) for complete Election 2020 information. The Attorney General's office has set up a [website](#) with information on voter rights, voting methods, and election protection.

#### **Safely Dispose of Unused Medications During Drug Take-Back Day**

Have unwanted or expired medications in your cabinets? Needham is participating in National Prescription Take Back Day. Saturday, Oct. 24th, you can safely dispose of your unwanted medications at the Center at the Heights. This will be a drive thru drop off event. Please wear a face covering. The event is hosted by the Needham Police Department and runs from 10 am to 2 pm.