



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Covid-19 Update

December 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 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 Thursday.

- 766 Needham cases to date (12/24/2020). This is an increase of 69 cases since the 12/17/20 report. Needham is in the YELLOW category this week. Read the state's Weekly Public Health Report [here](#).
- 91 Coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (12/17/20).

Happy Holidays – Please Celebrate Safely

Happy holidays from the Town of Needham! While we hope you have an enjoyable holiday with your loved ones, please heed the guidance of public health officials: limit gatherings to immediate household members only. Wear a mask if you're around people other than those who live in your home, wash your hands and remain at a safe distance. Do not share food or drinks with others as a further preventative measure. Together, we will get through this. More information and guidelines from safe celebrations [here](#).

New Business Restrictions Take Effect December 26th

Beginning December 26, 2020, Massachusetts will implement temporary capacity limits to stop the spread of COVID-19 as cases and hospitalizations rise. Most businesses will be required to reduce capacity to 25 percent of their maximum. This includes restaurants, personal service businesses, retailers and most offices. Businesses must adhere to the [following](#) capacity limitations. These limits are in effect until January 10, 2021 unless further extended by the Governor.

State Aid for Small Businesses Available

The Governor yesterday launched a \$668 million program to provide financial assistance to Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The state will start releasing millions in new funding to restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses throughout the Commonwealth as soon as next week. More details on how to apply and eligibility requirements are available at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

MBTA Extends Reduced Commuter Rail Schedule

The Commuter Rail will continue operating on reduced service through Jan. 8, a change that initially took effect Dec. 14 because of low employee availability stemming from COVID-19 absences. The reduced schedule includes daily service on all Commuter Rail lines and at all stations, and it is posted as the Storm Schedule online at MBTA.com and in-person at major stations. Regular train service includes 541 daily trains, but as of December 14, Commuter Rail is operating 246 daily trains. Weekend trains will continue to operate on a regular schedule.