



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Needham Covid-19 Update

March 18, 2021 – 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.

- 1,536 Needham cases to date (3/18/2021). This is an increase of 36 cases since the 3/11/21 report.
- Needham is in the YELLOW category this week. Read the state's Weekly Public Health Report [here](#).
- 121 Coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (3/11/21).

NEEDHAM VACCINE UPDATE

Doses Received to Date	Doses Administered to Date	Doses Scheduled for Distribution	Total Doses Administered or Scheduled
6,310	6,277	500	6,777

State Moves to Step 1 of Phase 4 Reopening Monday, March 22nd

Effective Monday, March 22, all communities in Massachusetts will move into Step 1 of Phase 4 of the state's reopening plan. This will include reopening of certain venues at limited capacities, including ballparks, arenas and stadiums. Exhibition and convention halls may also begin to operate, following gathering limits and event protocols. The transition to Phase 4 also includes an increase in gathering limits for event venues and in public settings to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 25 people, with indoor house gatherings remaining at 10 people. Learn more about the new phase [here](#).

Travel Order Downgraded to Advisory Beginning Monday, March 22nd

Effective Monday, March 22, the Massachusetts Travel Order will be replaced with a Travel Advisory. The new travel advisory will urge all persons entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival if they have been out of the state for 24 hours or more.

The advisory does not apply to anyone in the following categories:

- Anyone who is returning to Massachusetts after an absence of fewer than 24 hours.
- Travelers who have a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts.
- Workers who enter Massachusetts to perform critical infrastructure functions (as specified by the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) while they are commuting to or from or while at work.



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- Travelers who are fully vaccinated (i.e. who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines OR who have received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, 14 days or more ago and who do not have symptoms).

Needham Public Health Vaccine Update – Homebound Residents

Needham Public Health will be providing COVID-19 vaccinations to homebound residents. Residents must meet the State qualifications for vaccination for homebound residents. Those can be found [here](#). If you believe you or someone you know qualifies for a homebound vaccination please email needhamvaccine@needhamma.gov or call 781-455-7934 and leave a message. Needham Public Health will begin calling residents the week of March 30th, 2021 to review resident qualifications and begin setting up appointments. Appointments will be based on supply of the vaccine from the State.

Schools Reopening for Full Time In-Person Learning Beginning in April

The Needham School Committee this week approved Superintendent Dan Gutekanst's [plan to return NPS students](#) in grades K-12 to full time instruction. Students will return on the following schedule:

- **Elementary Schools** (K-5) Monday, April 5th
- **Middle Schools** (6-8) Thursday, April 15th
- **High School** (9-12) *Staggered start*: Grades 9 and 12 Monday, May 3rd; grades 10 and 11 Monday, May 10th; all students, May 17th

All grades will have early release on Wednesdays for the remainder of the year.