



# **NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



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

April 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 April 8, 2020 there are:

- 16,790 cases statewide
- 1,778 Norfolk County
- 433 deaths statewide
- \*Note: This is not new information. As of April 7, 2020: Needham has had a total of 61 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 31 community members have recovered from the virus. Two public safety employees have had confirmed cases. Those two employees are recovered. Town data is updated Tuesdays at 5 pm.

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).

### **Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham Offers Stress Reduction Toolkit:**

The Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) is pleased to present a free, virtual event, “**Stress Reduction Toolkit during COVID 19,**” on **Wednesday, April 15 at 3pm**. Guest presenter, Jon Wortmann will share 9 tools for helping manage stress during this uncertain time. There will be time for questions and answers following his presentation. Jon Wortmann is a leadership trainer for the Town of Needham in addition to municipalities and school districts throughout New England. He has trained thousands of leaders in the non-profit and for-profit world on effective communication and resilience.

**Register here for this event:** <https://bit.ly/2RbSyTZ>. Registrants will receive a separate email with Zoom event link.

### **MEMA and the MA National Guard Deliver PPE to Needham First Responders**

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the MA National Guard rolled into Needham today to distribute personal protective equipment to Needham’s Fire and Police Departments. Supplies included surgical masks, N95 masks, gloves, caps and gowns. Thank you to our first responders for keeping Needham safe and to MEMA and the Guard for keeping them safe.

### **State Launches Nursing Home Family Resource Line - 617-660-5399**

The state has launched a new phone line to provide one central contact for families and community members who have questions about the nursing home or rest home care their loved one is receiving during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Nursing Home Family Resource Line is 617-660-5399 and is staffed from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, seven days a week. Staff will field questions on a range of topics and coordinate across state agencies to help provide answers.

### **Volunteers and Donations**

We’re lucky to have such a generous and thoughtful community. Residents, businesses and organizations have found so many creative ways to support each other during this time and many of you have asked how else you can help. We’re particularly focused on our older population in Needham who



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need many services during this time. Thank you to Trader Joe's, Sudbury Farms, Café Fresh, and Wegmans for helping feed our seniors. If you're looking to volunteer to help our older adults, please fill out this [form](#). You can also sign up for other volunteer duties by joining the Medical Reserve Corps [here](#).

If you're looking to make a financial contribution, please consider sending a check to the Gift of Warmth. The Gift of Warmth helps families in need during challenging times like these. You can make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to Town of Needham – Gift of Warmth. Checks may be dropped off in the locked dropboxes outside of Town Hall, the Public Services Administration Building or the Rosemary Complex. They can also be mailed to Needham Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave., Needham, MA 02492.

## **Voting Options for Social Distancing**

The Annual Town Election scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 has been rescheduled to May 26, 2020. Those who need to register to vote have until 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2020 to do so.

To continue efforts to social distance, a new law provides for two alternatives to voting in person:

- First, the law allows any person taking precaution related to COVID-19 to vote by **absentee ballot** by reason of physical disability. All applications for an absentee ballot must be received by the Town Clerk before noon on **Monday May 25, 2020**, the last business day before the election. Any person may apply for an absentee ballot by sending a signed request to the Town Clerk's office or filling out the absentee ballot application available [here](#). The ballot must be received by the Town Clerk before the polls close 8:00 PM on Election Day (May 26, 2020)
- Second, the law provides for **early voting by mail**. All applications for early voting ballots must be received before noon on **Monday May 25, 2020**, the last business day before the election. Any person may obtain an early voting ballot by sending a signed request to the Town Clerk's office or by filling out and returning the early voting application available [here](#). The early voting ballot must be received by the Town Clerk before the polls close 8:00 PM on Election Day (May 26, 2020).

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