



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



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

March 31, 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 March 31, 2020 there are

- 6,620 cases statewide
- 738 Norfolk County
- 89 deaths statewide

To date, Needham has had 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19. There are currently 26 active cases. Nine people have recovered. Two public safety employees have confirmed cases of COVID-19. Close contacts (defined as someone who has spent more than 15 minutes within six feet of a positive case) have been identified and contacted by health officials and are following proper prevention protocols.

Public safety employees will continue to respond to all emergencies and are taking all proper precautions when encountering residents and community members. They are practicing social distance procedures and regularly cleaning and sanitizing work areas. Residents should continue to call 911 for emergencies.

As a reminder, the numbers do not reflect the true nature of the COVID-19 outbreak. Due to a lack of testing, the number of cases is likely much higher. People should adhere to social distancing and other preventative measures to help stop the spread.

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.

Town data is updated and publicly released each Tuesday by 5 pm.

Governor Extends Closure of Non-Essential Businesses, Stay-at-Home Advisory Until May 4

Governor Baker today announced that all non-essential businesses will remain closed until May 4th. People are also advised to remain at home and limit all gatherings of 10 people or more until May 4th. The new orders replace the Governor's former orders that ended the closure April 6th. Along with the extension, the Governor revised the list of essential businesses and made clear that hotels, motels and rentals like Air B&B may only be booked for emergency services and essential personnel. They may not be booked for vacations. Learn more about the Governor's updated orders here:

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Check the Essential Business Services here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services>

A Reminder – Parks, Playgrounds, Fields Closed. Trails Remain Open with Social Distancing Advised

To better enforce social distancing and discourage the gathering of large groups, Needham Public Health has closed parks, playgrounds and fields. Please avoid these areas. There are many other trails for walking and exercise. A list of those can be found here. We know this is challenging but we appreciate your cooperation during this time. <https://www.needhamma.gov/724/Maps-Trails-Information>



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



Wellesley College Closes Campus and Lake Waban Path to Public

Wellesley College, in consultation with the Town of Wellesley and Wellesley Police Department have closed the College and neighboring walking path around Lake Waban to the public. The College is trying to limit the number of people who are on campus in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines and limit the spread of COVID-19.

Campus buildings and facilities are only open to students remaining on campus, faculty, and staff. All athletics facilities—indoor and outdoor, including the track, fields, and tennis courts—are closed. Only Wellesley College registered vehicles will be permitted to park in campus parking lots.

Additionally, both the College and the Hunnewell family, owners of the property next to the College that also borders Lake Waban, have decided to close the privately-owned walking path around Lake Waban to the public. Only faculty, staff, and students (no guests) are welcome to walk on Wellesley College's portion of the lake path, and around campus, while maintaining social distance.

If you have questions or concerns about this decision, please contact the [Office of Communications and Public Affairs](#). You can find additional information on the College's [coronavirus website](#).

###