



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



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

May 14, 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 May 14, 2020 there are:

- 1,685 new cases today for a total of 82,182 cases statewide
- 7,258 cases in Norfolk County
- 167 new deaths today for a total of 5,482 deaths statewide
- 41 new cases in Needham for a total of 292 (as reported by DPH on 5/13)
- 50 coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (as reported by the Town Clerk on 5/11. Next update will be 5/25)
- Four public safety employees have had confirmed cases of COVID-19. All four have recovered.

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.

Expanded Eligibility for COVID-19 Testing

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has announced expanded eligibility for COVID-19 testing in Massachusetts. All symptomatic individuals in Massachusetts, even those with mild symptoms, should be tested for COVID-19. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever, chills or shaking chills,
- Signs of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, lowered oxygen saturation),
- Fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches/myalgia, or new loss of sense of taste or smell
- Other less common symptoms can include gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea), rash, and inflammatory conditions such as “COVID toes”.
- In elderly, chronically ill, or debilitated individuals such as residents of a long-term care facility, symptoms of COVID-19 may be subtle such as alterations in mental status or in blood glucose control

Close Contacts of COVID Cases: All individuals in Massachusetts identified as a close contact by a Local Board of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Community Tracing Collaborative, or a healthcare provider should be tested.

Asymptomatic Individuals: Asymptomatic individuals can be recommended for diagnostic testing at the discretion of their healthcare provider, a state agency, or an employer. Individuals are encouraged to confirm with their insurance whether the test will be covered.

Testing locations can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ma-covid-19-testing-sites/download>

Eversource Reminds Customers to Remain Vigilant Against Scams

Eversource energy company is reminding people to remain vigilant and protect themselves against scams. The COVID-19 outbreak has led to an increase in scam activity, with sophisticated scammers finding unique and intimidating ways to exploit people and steal their money during these uncertain times.



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With the wave of scams related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Eversource is reminding customers about common signs to recognize a scam and specific pandemic-related scams to look out for, including:

- **Threats of immediate power disconnection or demands for payment:** Eversource representatives never ask for instant payment, and the energy company is not disconnecting any customers for non-payment during this emergency period.
- **Callers asking for personal or account information or insisting on specific, unusual payment methods:** Eversource will never ask for personal information over the phone in this manner and does not accept payments via gift cards, pre-paid debit cards or other common tools used by scammers.
- **Requests for a deposit to exchange a utility meter:** Eversource has suspended all non-essential work, including routine meter changes, during the pandemic. Meters also do not suddenly expire, so be wary of calls claiming payment is necessary for a new meter to be installed because the current meter is about to expire.
- **Calls, emails or texts about government stimulus checks:** The IRS won't contact people with information about stimulus payments, or to ask for personal information like a Social Security number or bank account number.
- **Online offers for vaccinations and test kits:** There are no products proven to treat or prevent COVID-19 at this time and the only FDA-approved home test kit requires a doctor's order.

Eversource urges anyone who believes they are a target of improper solicitation to please alert local law enforcement and contact the company directly at 800-592-2000.

For more information on how the energy company is helping customers protect against scams during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit <https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/residential/safety/protect-yourself/avoid-scams>.

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