



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



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

May 29, 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 29, 2020 there are:

- 617 new cases today for a total of 95,512 cases statewide
- 7,959 cases in Norfolk County
- 78 new deaths today for a total of 6,718 deaths statewide
- 311 cases in Needham (as of 5/27)
- 56 coronavirus deaths in Needham to date (next report will be 6/8)
- 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.

Reminder: Town Offices Reopen Monday by Appointment Only

As a reminder, Town offices are reopening to the public by appointment only beginning Monday, June 1st. Anyone seeking to enter a Town building must have an appointment scheduled. Those without appointments are asked to call the department they are wishing to contact and schedule an appointment. Those looking to make a payment can do so by dropping the payment (check or money order only – no cash) in the dropbox outside Town Hall on Garrity's Way or can mail their payment to the relevant department. For more information on Town reopening, visit our [website](#).

Governor Issues Additional Phase 2 Guidance, Includes Restaurants & Lodging

Governor Baker today provided an update on the Reopening Massachusetts plan and preparations for Phase 2. The state will determine the start of Phase 2 on June 6th.

On Monday, Governor Charlie Baker will issue an executive order with a detailed list of sectors that fall into each phase. The order will allow Phase 2 businesses to bring back employees in preparation for re-opening. Through this order, professional sports teams can begin practicing at their facilities in compliance with the health and safety rules that all the leagues are developing. Facilities remain closed to the public.

Restaurant and Lodging Guidance: The Administration today issued workplace safety standards for restaurants and lodging. These workplace specific safety standards are organized around four distinct categories covering Social Distancing, Hygiene Protocols, Staffing and Operations and Cleaning and Disinfecting.

Restaurants: Outdoor dining will begin at the start of Phase 2. Indoor dining will begin later within Phase 2. subject to public health data. Even when indoor seating is permitted, use of outdoor space will be encouraged for all restaurants.

Social distancing guidance includes spacing tables six feet apart with a maximum party size of six people. The use of bars, except for spaced table seating, will not be permitted. For hygiene protocols, utensils and menus should be kept clean through single use or with strict sanitation guidelines, reservations or call ahead seating is recommended and contactless payment, mobile ordering or text on arrival for seating will also be encouraged.



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Restaurants will be expected to follow cleaning and disinfecting guidelines, in accordance with CDC guidance. This includes closing an establishment temporarily if there is a case of COVID-19 in an establishment.

For full restaurant guidance, [click here](#).

Lodging: Hotels, motels and other lodging businesses will be allowed to expand their operations in Phase 2. Lodging safety standards apply to all forms of lodging including hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, short term residential rentals including Airbnb and VRBO.

Event spaces, like ballrooms and meeting rooms, will remain closed. On-site restaurants, pools, gyms, spas, golf courses and other amenities at lodging sites may operate only as these categories are authorized to operate in accordance with the phased re-opening plan. Lodging operators also must inform guests of the Commonwealth's policy urging travelers to self-quarantine for 14 days when arriving from out-of-state.

For full lodging guidance, [click here](#).

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