



NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



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

June 15, 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 reports the number of positive cases and deaths daily on the state's [COVID-19 dashboard here](#).

Town-specific case numbers are published by the state every Wednesday on the [COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report](#).

- 325 Needham cases (6/10/2020)
- 70 Coronavirus deaths in Needham (reported by the Town Clerk's Office on 6/8/2020. Next update will be 6/22/20)

Needham Reopening Website Offers Local Reopening Information

The Town will continue to post reopening-related updates to a dedicated [Reopening](#) website. Check there for updates as new information is posted.

State Urges Those Who've Attended Large Gatherings to Get a Free COVID-19 Test This Week

The state today encouraged anyone who has attended a large gathering in the past two weeks to get tested for COVID-19. Free testing will be provided on June 17th and 18th at various locations across Massachusetts. COVID-19 can spread easily and quickly in large groups of people who are in close contact. Some people do not have symptoms but may have the virus and could spread the virus to others. If you participated in a large gathering, you should get tested. You can get tested at one of over [50 sites](#).

Needham Board of Health Meets Tuesday with COVID-19 Agenda Items

The Needham Board of Health meets Tuesday, June 16 at 9 am to discuss various issues related to COVID-19. Among the agenda items are discussions about the current face covering order, restaurant reopenings, pool and summer program openings, Independence Day events and more. The full agenda can be found [here](#). You can watch the meeting via [Zoom](#).

Update from Needham Park and Recreation

Today, the Town enters the final phase of field openings. All fields have had proper maintenance and are available for the public to use for **passive** recreation. Park and Rec is not yet issuing field permits for organized activities and playgrounds and basketball courts in Needham remain closed. The Park and Recreation Commission and Department will be discussing the new protocols at their June 22nd meeting.

Beginning Tuesday, June 16th, doubles tennis will be allowed at the public courts. As a reminder, private lessons are not permitted at any of the public tennis courts and tennis badges are required for access. We thank the community for your continued patience as we determine the best protocols for our Open Spaces and programs with the new guidance. Questions may be directed to parkandrecreation@needhamma.gov

Needham Offering "Start of Summer Activity Bags" – Buy One or Donate One

Needham Park and Recreation is now offering Start of Summer Activity Bags! Park and Recreation, Youth



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& Family Services, Needham Housing and Needham Public Schools have been working on a ton of fun activities to help kids kick off summer. Each bag comes with items like jump ropes, activity books, craft kits and more, and will be partnered with some virtual sessions with Park and Recreation staff. Registration is now open, and bags will be available June 22nd. Residents can also donate an activity bag to a Needham youth in need. Get your bag at www.needhamandr.activityreg.com.

More Outdoor Dining Coming to Needham as Select Board Votes to Expedite Process

Residents will see more outdoor dining options at local restaurants in the coming days and weeks as the Town works with restaurant owners to reduce barriers to establishing more outdoor seating. The Select Board's action gives the Town Manager's Office the authority to grant the necessary local approvals that will allow existing businesses to utilize outdoor seating in parking lots, on-street parking spaces, sidewalks, landscaped yard areas or other appropriate locations to provide more space to serve patrons. The Town is currently working with restaurants and businesses owners to reimagine areas including the Chapel Street and Lincoln Street Parking Lots, areas along Great Plain Ave. and other locations. The Select Board approved changes earlier this week to allow certain restaurants to safely transform their parking lots into seating areas.

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