

A message from the Dedham Board of Health

DEDHAM — In an effort to continue to update Dedham residents on state and local preparedness efforts and impacts related to COVID-19 (commonly referred to as Coronavirus), the Dedham Board of Health offers the following updates:

December 30, 2020

The Board met and discussed the distribution of the COVID vaccine. We discussed in detail the rollout of a collaborative effort with the NC-8 regional group for vaccinating our First Responders, beginning January 11th. Additional information and guidance from the state is forthcoming regarding the distribution of the vaccine in the second and third phases.

The Board also reviewed the changes in gathering guidelines effective December 26, 2020; inside gatherings are limited to 10; outside gatherings limited to 25; and a 25% capacity limitation in businesses, including houses of worship.

Compliance

The COVID compliance inspector continues to work with businesses to provide support and review guidelines throughout the ever-changing directives from the state.

Testing Sites

STOP THE SPREAD COVID TESTING SITES remain open throughout the Commonwealth. For specific information on site locations, please visit www.mass.gov/COVID19

Question & Answer

As promised, the Board has added new frequently asked questions. We continue to encourage residents to submit questions and concerns to the Board at dedhamboardofhealth@dedham-ma.gov

Q. Am I exempt from the travel order if I have a second home in another state which I visit on weekends with only my family circle and leave only to ski?

A. No. There are no exemptions for vacation homes. If you travel out of state you must comply with the regulations.

Q. If I had COVID when would I be eligible for the vaccine?

A. According to current DPH guidelines, the wait time is 90 days.

Q. When the Town receives the vaccine, how will it be distributed?

A. Currently, the Town has been provided with vaccine for Dedham's First Responders only. The Health Department continues to work closely with the state and federal governments to procure a sufficient supply of vaccine for our community. We are currently working to organize town wide clinics and will inform the public with information as it becomes available.

Confirmed Cases

The confirmed case count as of December 30, 2020 is 1140. The case count as of this update (January 7, 2021) is 1283, an increase of 143 cases. Please note, this number reflects the total number of cases confirmed since March 2020. Please be advised that this number is not indicative of any detected cluster in the community.

The continued increase in confirmed cases in Dedham and across the Commonwealth reminds us of the importance of being vigilant. The Board urges everyone to

**WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES
STAY SIX FEET APART
WASH YOUR HANDS**

Resources

Residents are encouraged to visit the website, dedhamcovid19.com, for all town updates as the COVID-19 situation develops. Visitors can subscribe via email to receive notifications for new posts.

Although Town Hall remains closed to the public, the Health Department is staffed and available to address all questions and concerns. We encourage residents and businesses to contact the office at 781-751-9220 with any questions or concerns. The Board most respectfully asks for your patience and understanding of the demands on the Department. All inquiries and complaints are important and will be addressed. Please remain kind and respectful!

The Board appreciates the continued collaboration with all Town departments in assisting residents and businesses adapt to the new normal.

The Board again wishes to remind the public to properly dispose of gloves and masks at all public locations.

The Board wishes to thank the Health Department staff for their continued dedication during these unprecedented times.

Stay safe and be kind!

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Health
Leanne Jasset, Chairman
Kathy Reda, Vice-Chairman
Mary Ellard, Member