

January 22nd, 2021

Important Dates:

January 29th: National
Puzzle Day

February 2nd: Groundhog
Day

The Week in Numbers:

Cumulative Number of COVID-19 Cases* in Uxbridge Residents	611
Average Number of New Cases per Day (per 100,000 people)**	46.7
Test Positivity Rate	8.07%

*confirmed by [PCR testing](#)

**Information from 1/21 [state data](#)

To see more information on COVID-19 in the Uxbridge community, check out the [Uxbridge Board of Health COVID-19 page](#).

About this Publication:

The COVID-19 Update is produced by the Uxbridge Board of Health with the help of volunteers from the [Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps](#). The Update provides residents relevant and timely updates about the COVID-19 situation, other public health topics and related news from the community. It is published every other Friday, and is accurate up to the time of publication.

COVID-19 Update

Frequently Asked Questions

When will I get vaccinated?

A good place to start to look for an answer is on the [state's dedicated vaccine page](#)! You may have received an email which includes a [survey](#) to determine where in the waiting line you stand. This was sent to all Uxbridge residents who have signed up for email alerts. It is on the front page of the Uxbridge Town website also.

Getting the vaccine manufactured, distributed, and administered is a daunting task. Uncertainty surrounding the size of the federal stockpile, as well as unclear distribution and administration plans have contributed greatly to state and local confusion about who will get the vaccine and when. Massachusetts is presently in Phase 1, and the Uxbridge Board of Health is applying for permission to administer vaccines to people in Phase 2. If you are eligible for Phase 1 vaccine, click [here](#) for vaccination locations.

Best advice for now? Wear a mask, socially distance, wash hands frequently, avoid spending time with those outside of your household as much as possible, and sign up for the [Town's email alerts](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: All Phase 1 Groups Eligible

- 1 COVID-facing healthcare workers Eligible Group
- 2 Long term care facilities (LTCF) Eligible Group
- 3 First responders (EMS, Fire, Police) Eligible Group
- 4 Congregate care settings (inc. corrections & shelters) Eligible Group
- 5 Home-based healthcare workers Eligible Group
- 6 Non-COVID-facing healthcare workers Eligible Group

For more details on each group and phase visit [mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](#)



@massgov

If I get two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, do I still need to mask/distance?

Yes, even if you get two doses of the vaccine [you should still follow the guidelines](#) for social distancing and mask wearing. There are [a few reasons for this](#). The first is that, when the vaccines were developed and tested, the social distancing and mask guidelines were in place for the general public in most states. Scientists are confident that the vaccines work in this environment, but are still researching the efficacy of the vaccine in "normal" settings. The second reason is that the vaccine prevents people who have been vaccinated from getting sick, but it is not yet clear if the vaccine prevents people from spreading the virus. So it may be possible to be vaccinated and spread COVID-19 to a loved one, even though you yourself will not experience symptoms of COVID-19. This will be the case until enough people are vaccinated that we reach [herd immunity](#).

The People First Food Pantry is in need of the following:

- canned chicken;
- peanut butter;
- jelly;
- canned peas;
- canned carrots

High Risk Towns

There are 62 cities and towns in Massachusetts that are now considered high risk for community transmission of COVID-19. These include Uxbridge, Northbridge, Douglas, and Blackstone. For a full list of these communities [click](#) here.

Helpful Links

- [Uxbridge Support Services](#)
- [Mass.gov/StopCOVID19](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Info](#)
- [Report Workplace Violations](#)



Questions?

Contact the
Board of Health at:
508-278-8600 ext. 8
boh@uxbridge-ma.gov

Does it matter which vaccine I get and if I get both doses?

It does not matter which vaccine you receive. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine have both been approved for use in the United States by the [FDA](#) and are safe and effective. This means that they have been through [clinical trials](#) that have demonstrated their benefits and safety. It is important to receive [two doses](#) of the same vaccine to be best protected against the COVID-19 virus. Only receiving one dose of a given vaccine will not be as effective.

Do I still need to sanitize my groceries before putting them away? What about my mail?

Early in the pandemic, when we knew very little about COVID-19, one of the strategies for avoiding COVID-19 infections was frequent handwashing, letting mail sit for days before opening and washing all groceries before using. Now that we know more about how COVID-19 is transmitted and have had time to study it, [researchers have determined](#) that [infected surface \(called fomite\) transmission](#) is unlikely. It is still important to wash hands for 20 seconds and to avoid touching your face (where viral particles can more easily enter your body). If you [still want to wash groceries](#), make sure to use non-toxic cleaning products.

Looking Ahead

The new, federal administration has started to make significant changes in the approach to the COVID pandemic. The Defense Production Act is being utilized as part of the response. The [new plan](#) addresses coordination of vaccine production and distribution, and outlines a national strategy for testing. It not only addresses the health issues brought about by COVID, but the massive economic and social problems confronting all of us. You can learn more details of the plan in this [Executive Order](#) and this [strategy document](#).



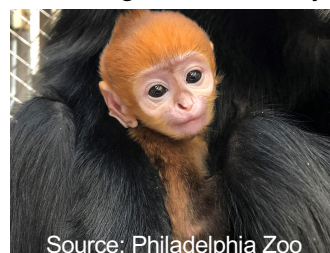
Good News Corner



A loud shout out to the Uxbridge Public Schools — teachers, administration, ancillary staff, students and parents — for their persistence in meeting the challenges of this pandemic. They have also have created a [COVID dashboard which is superb!!](#)

In other news...

The [Philadelphia Zoo](#) has a new edition! A baby François' langur, a monkey, was born at the zoo in December. She was named Quý Báu (precious in Vietnamese). This was the first time a François' langur was born at the Philadelphia Zoo, which is exciting because they are an endangered species!



Source: Philadelphia Zoo