

August 6<sup>th</sup>\*, 2020  
Revised 8/7

**Important Dates:**

August 9<sup>th</sup>: International Women's Day

**COVID-19  
Travel Order**

All visitors and returning residents entering MA must follow [new travel orders](#). Note that Rhode Island was just added to travel ban.

**The Week in Numbers:**

Number of COVID-19 cases* in Uxbridge Residents	81
Number of <b>active</b> cases (individuals still in isolation)	2**

\*confirmed by [PCR testing](#)

\*\*Revised 8/7 for error

**Alerts**

Sign up for [EEE Updates](#) and [other town alerts](#)

**COVID  
Complaints**

New DLS complaint form available [online](#)

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## Status Update

This week one new case was reported bringing the total COVID-19 positive case count to 81. For more detailed state reporting of cases, [click here](#).

## Schools Reopening

As we get closer to September, the question on many people's minds is whether or not schools will be reopening for the 2020/21 school year. These decisions about opening are still in progress as lawmakers, educators, and school committees try to balance the safety of students, families and staff and the effectiveness of modified education. Many districts are trying to combine in person and online education by establishing a hybrid model with schedule modifications. Tonight, the Uxbridge School Committee voted to move forward with a hybrid plan. (See [the Uxbridge archive](#) for videos of recent meetings). Restrictions on reopenings will include a focus on safety within the classroom and will include all the familiar precautions such as social distancing, disinfecting, ventilation and mask wearing. Many people have concerns about whether or not children are going to be able to wear masks for the entire school day. If you are worried about your child wearing a mask for this length of time, it may be helpful to start practicing mask wearing with your child during the remainder of the summer (such as while watching television/screentime). Note that most school plans allow you to select a remote track if you want to keep your children out of school. Families and staff should consider [CDC's People at Increased Risk of Serious Illness](#) when making decisions.



## Triple E

As this exceptionally hot summer continues, please exercise caution in regards to mosquito prevention. The first case of EEE in a person was confirmed for the year in Carver, MA. EEE is a very serious illness and residents of MA should take caution in the form of bug repellent, long sleeves, and avoiding standing water. More information on EEE and the situation in Mass can be found on the state's website [here](#).

**About this Publication:** The COVID-19 Weekly Update is produced by the Uxbridge Board of Health with the help of volunteers from the [Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps](#). The Weekly 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 Thursday, and is accurate up to the time of publication.

## Our Neighbors

The COVID-19 case count in Uxbridge has been excitingly low the past two months but many neighboring communities have seen increases in positive cases in recently. If you want to see how Uxbridge compares to surrounding towns, [click here](#) to see the weekly case and testing information by city/town released each Wednesday by the Mass. Department of Public Health.

## Helpful Links

- [Uxbridge COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [Uxbridge Support Services](#)
- [Massachusetts DPH](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Info](#)
- [Report Workplace Violations](#)
- [Mosquito-Borne Diseases](#)



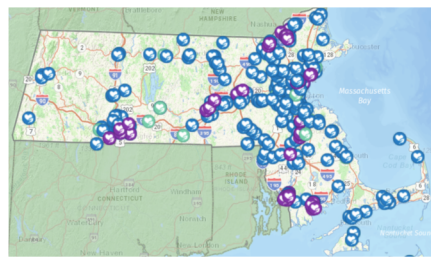
## Questions?

If you cannot find the answer online, contact the Board of Health at: 508-278-8600 ext. 8 [boh@uxbridge-ma.gov](mailto:boh@uxbridge-ma.gov)

## Where O Where are the Testing Sites

Massachusetts is continuing to open more testing sites as part of their effort to increase testing access across the state. Learn more about COVID-19 testing at DPH's [website](#), which includes an [interactive testing map](#) to help residents identify nearby testing sites. While there are no sites in Uxbridge, 11 testing centers can be found within 20 miles.

According to DPH, COVID-19 testing for symptomatic individuals and close contacts is usually covered by insurance and available at no cost to you. The closest free testing site is located in Worcester – see [Stop the Spread Sites](#). Given that many of these testing sites require pre-screening, a referral and/or appointment, and that many of these testing centers have opened or closed in recent months, all residents should contact the site prior to arrival.



It is important to note that the turnaround time on test results can range from 15 minutes to over 10 days. Ask the test site about their turnaround times before you schedule! DPH recommends individuals with any symptoms of COVID-19 (even if they are mild) and close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 be tested using a PCR test. Please note in order to test out of the MA COVID-19 Travel Order, you must get a PCR test (not Antibody)!

## Survey for Readers

The Town of Uxbridge is updating its Open Space & Recreation Plan. Please take a brief [survey](#) to share your opinion on current parks and trails and let us know where you think the town should focus efforts and funding. Surveys must be completed by **August 15, 2020**.

## Making Sense of Mask Material (Revised 8/7/20)

There are many articles about face mask materials. Studies indicate that that masks made out of three layers of fabric (cotton or silk) offer the greatest protection. While a scarf or single-layer T-shirt are not as effective as other options, they are still better than wearing no mask! Please note the original posting of this newsletter edition linked an article suggesting vacuum bags for masks but there are warning against this. More info to come in next week's newsletter.

Also, remember that HOW you [wear your mask](#) matters just as much as what your mask is made of. Masks should be worn over the mouth and nose, not around your chin, under your nose, or on your forehead.

