



July 16th, 2020

Important Dates:

July 16th: [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Virtual Public Forum @ 7pm](#)

July 17th: World Day for International Justice
July

Helpful Links:

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

For EEE Updates, sign up for [CodeRED](#) and other town alerts through [E- Alerts](#).

The Week in Numbers:

Total reported COVID-19 cases in Uxbridge Residents	78
Number of inactive COVID-19 cases in Uxbridge	77

COVID-19 Weekly Update

Status Update

COVID-19 in Uxbridge

Uxbridge has no **new cases this week**! Massachusetts continues to bring down its rate of positive cases, which is now at 1.7%. This means that of all the people tested for COVID 19, only 1.7% were positive for COVID-19. However, this doesn't mean our work is done! If we want to see MA continue to keep its positive case rate low, we have to keep wearing masks, keep social distancing, and keep listening to guidance from experts. If you are interested in how other states compare, you can check out [this](#) page in the Coronavirus Resource Center run by Johns Hopkins University.

Open Does Not Mean Ok

With Massachusetts reopening in full swing, it is important to remember that just because businesses are open, the pandemic is not over. Please refer to [CDC's People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions](#) webpage and also [weigh your coronavirus risk this summer](#). While many businesses are taking precautions, there is still risk. There is still a significant chance COVID can be spread in businesses where people gather, where masks are removed to eat, or businesses that don't require customers to wear masks inside. You, as the customer, have the choice to go to or stay away from these establishments. You can also choose the way you engage with businesses in person if you do go. Keep your mask on even if a business doesn't enforce it. If you get to a business and you feel uncomfortable with their practices, leave. There are also plenty of ways to support businesses from home. If you want to support restaurants, order take out. If you want to support local retail, see if they have an online website. Donate to museums and local businesses to keep them open for when it's safer. Choosing to support businesses remotely can protect your health and the health of employees who work there, who oftentimes don't have a choice about returning to work. There is more information available in the [local](#) and [statewide](#) mask covering order and [statewide reopening standards](#).

Open Space 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. Visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UxbridgeOSRP>

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.

Mosquito Update

This week, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill entitled [An Act to mitigate arbovirus in the Commonwealth](#) unanimously by a vote of 158-0. This bill is intended to modernize the state's approach to mitigating the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses and was drafted to help communities like Uxbridge who are not part of larger control projects. The bill would give the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board new powers to fight mosquito-borne illnesses when the state Department of Public Health determines there is an elevated risk.



Questions?

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

COVID-19 Compliance

As workplaces reopen, it is important to remember that many people do not have the choice to work from home and have to go back to work in person even if they feel unsafe. In an effort to make workplaces safer, the state has released COVID 19 workplace safety standards that businesses must follow for its employees and customers. They can be found [here](#). If you are someone who had to return to work, it is your right to feel safe in your workspace. If you feel that your employer is not following the new safety standards, you can report this to the Massachusetts 2-1-1 [line](#), which is currently set up to handle calls; primarily about workplace safety during the reopening.

Thank you to Essential Workers

Across Massachusetts, and most of New England, COVID-19 positive case rates are slowing down. As we start to adjust to our new normal, we want to take a moment to thank our essential workers for all they have done and all they are doing to help us stay safe. The pandemic is not over yet and we are grateful to have such strong and dedicated people in our community.

To ensure that our essential workers stay healthy and able to do their jobs, remember to continue practicing social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing.



Product Recall

The FDA has issued a warning to consumers regarding methanol contamination in certain hand sanitizers. Please refer to [FDA Updates on Hand Sanitizers with Methanol](#) for full details and a list of products – currently there are 69 products listed. The FDA has found that certain hand sanitizer products that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol, or wood alcohol, is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested. The agency is aware of adults and children ingesting hand sanitizer products contaminated with methanol that has led to recent adverse events including blindness, hospitalizations and death.

Methanol is not an acceptable active ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects. Examples of the recalled products are shown below.

