

May 7, 2020

Important Dates:

- End of current Stay-at-Home Order: **May 18**
- Annual Town Election: **May 19**
- Spring Annual Town Meeting: **June 12**

Helpful Links:

- [Uxbridge COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [Uxbridge Support Services](#)
- [Massachusetts DPH](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Info](#)

The Week in Numbers

Total reported COVID-19 cases in Uxbridge residents	55
Number of COVID-19 cases in Uxbridge out of isolation	27
Number of meals provided to students by Uxbridge Public Schools last week	4,418
People that received meals from the People First Food Pantry in April	249

COVID-19 Weekly Update

Status Update

Statewide Face Covering Order: Effective May 6, The Baker-Polito Administration has ordered all residents over the age of two to use a face covering or mask in public places where maintaining proper social distancing is not possible. This order applies to **all workers and customers of businesses and other organizations that are currently open to the public and permitted to operate as COVID-19 Essential Businesses**, such as grocery stores, pharmacies and other retail stores. This order also applies to anyone using any

form of public transportation. To read the entire press release, click [here](#). Remember, we are [all in this together](#), and covering your face protects vulnerable people and essential workers that you encounter when you go out in public.

COVID-19 Vaccine Development: Many groups across the world are racing to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. As of May 5, **8 different developers are currently testing vaccines in humans**, while 100 more are in pre-clinical development phases. Human trials of vaccines involve testing the vaccine in a small number of people for safety followed by a larger trial to evaluate the vaccine's ability to produce immunity and prevent disease. **The process of vaccine development normally takes years.** Fortunately, there has already been research and development of vaccines for other coronaviruses, such as those that cause SARS and MERS, which has given some developers a head start. Also, some labs are accelerating the process by putting vaccines into production and hoping approval will be given by this fall. Once a vaccine is approved, production and distribution can be ramped up so that the vaccine can become available to us all. **A vaccine is the safest and most effective way of establishing herd immunity.** Reversing the present restrictions too quickly can cause the rate of new cases to spike and, in the long run, more economic disruption, so it is important to follow the precautions recommended by public health officials.

About this Publication: The COVID-19 Weekly Update is produced by the Uxbridge Board of Health on behalf of the Town of Uxbridge to provide the town with relevant and timely updates about the COVID-19 situation and related news from the community. It is published every Thursday, and is accurate up to the time of publication.



For town updates, sign up for emergency notifications via [CodeRED](#) and other alerts and announcements through the town's website via [E-Alerts](#). The E-Alert service allows you to customize your alert settings to specific department news and announcements, meetings, agendas and other information.

For real-time updates about the Massachusetts COVID-19 response, text **COVIDMA** to **888-777**



Mother's Day is this [Sunday, May 10](#). The state has relaxed guidelines for shops like florists, allowing for contactless deliveries. Consider [supporting local businesses](#) when you celebrate Mom (or anyone else!) this weekend!

Questions?

If you cannot find the answer online, call the Board of Health at:

508-278-8600 ext. 8

Community Updates

Pets and COVID-19: To date, one dog and two cats (as well as two tigers at the Bronx Zoo) have tested positive for COVID-19 in the United States. These cases appear to have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person (pet owner or zoo-keeper). Human-to-animal transmission of COVID-19 is considered much less likely than human-to-human transmission, and there has been no documented case of a pet transmitting COVID-19 to a human. Here is what you need to know to keep yourself and your pets safe:


- [Include your pets in social distancing](#): Keep cats indoors and dogs on leash to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people outside of your household.
- [Those ill \(or suspected to be ill\) with COVID-19 should restrict contact with pets and animals as they would with other people](#). Have another member of your household take care of feeding and otherwise caring for any animals. If you have a service animal or you must care for your animals, wear a cloth face covering; don't share food, kiss, or hug them; and wash your hands before and after any contact with them.
- [If your pet becomes sick and you are ill, do not bring them to the veterinarian yourself](#). Call your veterinarian and ask how they handle animals from COVID-19 positive households.

For more information, see these resources from the [CDC](#) and the [AVMA](#).

HATS OFF AND MASKS ON FOR THE ESSENTIAL WORKER! The essential worker category has been created to indicate those whose work is critical to maintaining our basic health and social order. The category includes health care workers and first responders. It also includes workers in the following places or fields:

- grocery and hardware stores and pharmacies
- IT and communication
- public and private utilities
- postal and delivery
- trucking
- farming and meatpacking
- security
- a variety of small businesses

For an long and thoughtful list of essential workers, [click here](#). Many of these essential workers are exposed to the public and fellow workers regularly, so they tend to have [higher rates of infection](#). Please honor these individuals by [wearing your mask in public to protect them from the inadvertent spread of COVID-19](#). We are all in this together.

 **Community Spotlight:** Do you know someone who is helping their community and [deserves to be celebrated](#)? We want to share their story! Send your nomination, a brief summary of their story, and a picture if you have one to UxbridgeSpotlight@gmail.com.

Fight Quarantine Fatigue! As the weather warms and we reach our seventh week of staying at home, it can be tempting to start to loosen the boundaries we have set for ourselves, and this feeling is understandable. [However, proper social distancing remains as important as ever](#). Here are some ideas to safely enjoy the spring weather while fighting the boredom and stress of isolation.

- Rent e-books, audiobooks, or movies through the [Uxbridge Free Public Library](#)
- Plant an [herb](#) or [vegetable](#) garden (and use them to try new recipes!)
- Try an [online exercise class](#)
- Experiment with [Tie-Dye](#) (and make fun face coverings!)