



COVID-19 Update

Status Update



Uxbridge Public Health Notice

As of Thursday, November 12th, Uxbridge saw a 150% rise in the number of cases from last week. We are now up to 80 active cases. In order to address this drastic increase in cases, the Town Hall, Senior Center, Library, DPW Office and all other municipal buildings (except fire and police stations) will be closed to the public until further notice. This will give town employees a layer of protection so they can continue to work. Additionally, Town Meeting, which was originally scheduled for November 18th, is likely to be postponed. Information for paying bills, applying for permits and licenses and other information is [available on our website](#).

November 13th, 2020

Important Dates:

November 26th:Thanksgiving

Helpful Links

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

Winter is Coming

Although we have been experiencing unseasonably warm weather lately, it's important to remember that it will get colder in the coming months (maybe not as cold as previous years, but still below freezing). The days are getting darker and the indoors are an increasingly appealing place to be. Remember that outdoors is still much safer than indoors if you are going to be hanging out with people outside of your household. Cases have been increasing in the past few weeks across Massachusetts, and they are expected to continue to rise. This is not because we have been testing more. A [positivity rate](#) gives us a good idea of the transmission of COVID-19 in a community and tells us if we are testing enough. The positivity rate in Massachusetts has [been rising over the past two months](#) and shows us that we are not ready to return to normal life yet. [Governor Baker has introduced new measures](#) in the hopes of slowing down the spread of COVID-19 (like a new mask mandate), and it is important to keep in mind that there may be further restrictions if cases continue to rise. Bonfires, winter walks, sledding and snowman-building competitions are all good options for maintaining a social life this winter!

The Week in Numbers:

Number of active COVID-19 cases last newsletter	7
Number of active cases (individuals still in isolation)	80
Number of meals served by People First Food Pantry in October	191

*confirmed by [PCR testing](#)

#MaskUpMassachusetts

As of November 6th, Governor Baker has required that cloth face coverings be worn in all public places to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This applies both indoors and outdoors and regardless of whether another person is 6 feet away. There are still exceptions for individuals with medical conditions. Remember, masks should fit snugly on the face and cover both your mouth and your nose! Previously, it was thought that masks did not benefit the wearer, but the [CDC released a statement](#) this week indicating evidence that masks benefit the wearer as well as those around them. To read more on Governor Baker's order, click here: <https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

COVID

Complaints

New DLS complaint form available [online](#)

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 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 other Friday, and is accurate up to the time of publication.

COVID Resource

The state website's [COVID-19 page](#) provides residents and local business owners with information on how to stop the spread, state restrictions on gathering sizes, testing locations and materials that can be printed for display in apartment complexes, restaurants and community areas.

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

- Pasta
- Tomato sauce
- Oatmeal
- Rice dishes
- Canned vegetables
- Soups
- Beef stew
- Mayonnaise
- Salad dressings
- Baking items (flour, sugar, cake mixes, etc.)
- Snacks for kids



Questions?

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

Schools

As noted in the lead article, the trend of increasing spread within Uxbridge is clear. But what about schools? Does sending kids back into classrooms put the community at higher risk? Can't these kids spread it to each other and then to staff and then to their families? Shouldn't the schools be closed to protect the rest of the Town?

This answer, as is true for everything in this pandemic, is far from clear, but emerging research shows that schools are NOT responsible for the majority of spread within a community. Governor Baker has emphasized several times in recent briefings that keeping schools open is a priority for every child and family in the state and that it can be done relatively safely. The preliminary research backs up his conclusions. There seems to be an important distinction between school children less than 10 years old/5th graders and those that are older. Adolescents seem to spread COVID like adults, but younger children do not. For the latest on young children in early childhood centers, see this large study recently released: [here](#). For a good overview of schools and COVID see this New York Times [article](#), or this NPR [article](#).

The Board of Health and the Uxbridge Public Schools will continue to follow the research. Be kind to yourself and others. It always works.

Thanksgiving Traditions

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, it is time to think about how to stay safe during COVID-19! For most of us, Thanksgiving will likely look very different than previous years. The MA Department of Public Health recommends that gatherings should be small, with indoor gatherings attended by no more than 10 people. General guidelines, such as wearing a mask, should be followed. Avoid close contact with others, such as hugging, and sharing food. If you are planning on traveling, be aware of and comply with the MA travel orders, as well as orders in the state you may be traveling to. [Travel orders](#) are available on the Massachusetts state website, as well as more [information on Thanksgiving celebrations and guidelines](#).



Good News!



All Uxbridge outdoor facilities including the skatepark, basketball courts, playgrounds, and parks are open, as are the Greenway bike and walking path, West Hill Dam, and River Bend Farm. Getting outside is good for your health! **WEAR A MASK** so you can enjoy the warm weather while it lasts.