



September 24th,
2020

Important Dates:

September 26th: Johnny Appleseed Day: Go apple picking to celebrate!

October 14th: [Flu Clinic @ Uxbridge High School](#)

Free COVID-19 Testing:

The State has extended it's free [Stop the Spread Test sites](#). Call ahead for appointments at most sites. You do NOT need to be a resident of the testing location.

COVID-19 Travel Order

All visitors and returning residents entering MA must follow [new travel orders](#).

The Week in Numbers:

Number of COVID-19 cases* in Uxbridge Residents	94
Number of active cases (individuals still in isolation)	9

*confirmed by [PCR testing](#)

COVID Complaints

New DLS complaint form available [online](#)

COVID-19 Weekly Update

Status Update

Seven new cases were reported this week bringing the total COVID-19 positive case count in Uxbridge to 94. There are nine active cases. For more details [click here](#).

Get Your Flu Vaccine!

The Uxbridge Influenza Vaccine Clinic will be held as a drive-thru clinic on October 14th at the Uxbridge High School. The clinic will be open to all Uxbridge residents and free of charge, although you will need to pre-register prior to arrival. [Click here to pre-register and for more information](#). CVS and Hannaford pharmacy are also offering flu vaccines, call ahead to schedule an appointment at those facilities. The Tri-River flu clinic, open only to Tri-River patients, will be on October 17th for patients with last names starting with the letter A through the letter Q, and October 18th for patients with last names beginning with the letter R through the letter Z.

Aerosol Transmission

On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [redacted information](#) they posted a few days prior regarding aerosol transmission of the coronavirus, claiming it was "posted in error" and reaffirmed its previous statement that the virus was spread through respiratory droplets. So, what's the distinction between respiratory droplet transmission and aerosol transmission? Respiratory droplet transmission means that the tiny viral particles spread via "large" droplets that usually fall to the ground within 6 ft. of a person shedding the virus. Aerosol transmission means the viral particles are not contained in larger droplets and for that reason they can travel farther and may linger in the air. With aerosol transmission, [masks](#) and prohibiting indoor and large gatherings become key to preventing the spread (see [previous newsletter](#) with mask material information on page 2). In July, the World Health Organization (WHO) [said](#) that aerosol transmission of the virus seems to be a significant contributor to the spread of the virus. Japan, among other countries, has accepted that COVID-19 is airborne and has [successfully taken measures](#) to prevent further spread of the virus.

Scientific knowledge can change quickly and the relative importance of aerosol transmission has yet to be determined in detail. Current research shows that it is an important factor in COVID-19 spread with implications for personal and public health choices. (See July 9 [Update](#) for more information on aerosol transmission).

****Remember to always wear your mask and avoid crowds and indoor spaces whenever possible****

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.

EEE Winding Down

As the weather gets colder, EEE and other vector-borne diseases will start to wind down. To see the state's mosquito sampling results, [click here](#). To learn more about mosquito borne illnesses, visit the [Uxbridge BOH Mosquito borne diseases webpage](#).

Save Lives

The new website [Mass.gov/StopCOVID19](#) 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.

Helpful Links

- [Uxbridge COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- [CDC Holiday Guidance](#)
- [Massachusetts DPH](#)
- [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

Updates on Cleaning Products and Use

As cooler weather approaches and schools are opening, there may be questions about the use of disinfecting products either at home or at workplaces. Any product which is effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19 by killing the responsible virus will be listed on [EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). Just this week, the [EPA updated the list to include Pine-Sol](#), a common household cleaning product. [This flyer](#) may be helpful to post at a workplace. The CDC developed a thorough [guidance](#) in April which has not been updated, most likely because research has not indicated a need for modification.

If a product is to be safe and effective, it is extremely important to **pay attention to the details on the product label**. For instance, [certain products](#) should not be used on surfaces used for serving food. Other products may require long contact periods (10 minutes or more) before wiping away the product. Follow the directions on the label.

The use of foggers or electrostatic dispensing guns for disinfecting requires special precautions and a thorough knowledge of its safety profile. Unless the pesticide product label specifically includes disinfection directions for fogging, [EPA the advises against using these methods to apply disinfectants](#). The effectiveness of [UV light](#) in disinfecting has been established in general, but it is also well established that it can cause harm to the skin and eyes and **should be used carefully**, understanding the [limitations](#) of the specific product you use.

Disinfecting and cleaning does NOT mean that wearing of masks, distancing, hand washing and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID should be ignored. It is another layer, and each layer contributes to the overall protection and prevention of the disease.

Updates to Restaurant Restrictions

This week, the state announced it will relax coronavirus restrictions on restaurants starting Monday. Changes include increasing the number of people allowed per table from six to 10 and allowing establishments to use bar seating for food service. [Click here](#) for the revised Workplace Safety Standards for Restaurants.

How-To Halloween this Year



Modifications will obviously be required this year to make sure Halloween activities are safe. The CDC released [recommendations](#) for safe celebration ideas, including pumpkin carving, virtual costume contests and home Halloween movie nights with your family. The [Governor's Order #46](#) limits indoor gatherings to 25 persons and outdoor gatherings to 50 persons. This Order applies to private homes and backyards. Order #46 further states that all participants at gatherings must maintain 6 feet of distance from non-household members and wear masks if there are over 10 people from more than one household. More Halloween specific recommendations are expected to be released from the state this week.



Desks Flew "Off the Shelves"

The Uxbridge Desk Drive last Saturday was incredibly successful! Two hundred desks found new homes. Thank you to the Scouts and members of Uxbridge High School athletic teams who helped make this a success.
Happy learning!