

# ***Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts***

## ***OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TOWN MANAGER***



### **COVID-19 cases in Duxbury *Friday, January 8, 2021***

#### **NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

The Town of Duxbury has been advised that as of today's date, there have been a total of 571 positive cases of COVID-19 in our community which is an increase of 56 cases from the previous update provided on Monday, January 4, 2021. Of these cases, 456 of these individuals have fully recovered. Sadly, 13 individuals have died as a result of having Coronavirus (COVID-19). Due to privacy requirements, the demographics of these cases will remain anonymous. The close contacts of these positive cases have been notified and are following CDC guidelines for self-quarantine.

Further, we have been informed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services that the Town of Duxbury is now in the Red Zone category. This designation is indicative that our caseload has increased significantly enough to change the Town's status. By way of example, we saw 18 new cases reported on just one day earlier this week. We have been further advised that since the entire state has been rolled back to Phase 3.1, there is no immediate impact to the Town of Duxbury.

On April 15, 2020, the State began providing weekly updates with regard to the number of corona virus cases in a town-by-town format which can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-cases-quarantine-and-monitoring>

When compared to the Town of Duxbury's figures noted in this update, persons reviewing this information may see that there appear to be differences in the two sets of figures. The reasons for these discrepancies are threefold.

First, the state is providing their figures to the public on a weekly or bi-weekly basis (and they noted that their information will be updated each Thursday by 5:00 p.m.) while the Town of Duxbury attempts to provide our information on a more frequent, periodic basis. Thus, the number of cases being reported by both entities may differ.

Secondly, the Town's figures are derived from the State's reporting system, the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN), to which our Town Nurse has direct access. The Town Nurse logs into

the system at least twice daily and she then notifies the Town if we have any new confirmed cases. If we do have a new confirmed case, the Town Nurse performs her follow-up with the patient while the Town cross-references the patient's address (to verify they are, in fact, a resident) through a detailed process and contacts the patient or family member(s), as needed. In only a few cases, we have found that a patient may have a Duxbury address listed in the MAVEN system but who does not currently reside in Duxbury and they are not considered a current resident. As a result, because the Town has the ability and the capacity to utilize additional levels of verification to determine patient residency, our numbers differ from the state.

Thirdly, as the state has noted on their datasheets found on the website mentioned above, "data for these tables are based on information available in the DPH surveillance database at a single point in time. Case counts for specific cities and towns change throughout the day as data cleaning occurs (removal of duplicate reports within the system) and new demographic information (assigning cases to their city or town of residence) is obtained."

**This still remains a crucial time in infection control. Maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask of face covering (which includes covering your nose), limiting exposure to others, avoiding crowded places and vigilant handwashing are vital steps in slowing the spread of this disease.**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), other Federal agencies and our local Board of Health to share the most up to date information available. The DPH website is updated constantly with the latest guidance, including printable fact sheets in multiple languages at [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).

Information about coronavirus, the virus that causes COVID-19 can be found at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website, by calling 2-1-1 or visiting <https://mass211.org/> where citizens are able to live chat with a person. For specific questions, call the DPH Epidemiology Line at 24 hours a day/7 days a week at 617-983-6800.

The CDC website is <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We will continue to share information to ensure you are updated as broadly and quickly as possible. Please continue social distancing and personal hygiene efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rene' J. Read, Town Manager**

**Tracy Mayo, RS, Health Agent**