

COVID-19 Update 8/23/20

The percentage of individuals in Massachusetts testing positive daily for COVID-19 has dropped from its high point (April) 20-34% to below 2% since the end of July.

The virus has not gone away; we are still seeing new cases each day in Massachusetts and cases are increasing in States around the country.

The improved disease metrics have allowed more of our society to reopen and continued improvement will be a determinant in the expansion of the reopening process. Citizen can review the State's reporting on the cases in each community and view the interactive map at the following link: [COVID-19 Community-Level Data Interactive Map](#).

Information on the reopening of public schools can be found at the following link: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>

The efforts and cooperation of Massachusetts citizens and the deliberative phased reopening of the State have likely played a large role in the decrease of COVID-19 cases. Compliance by our fellow citizens with the public health messages of physical distancing, the wearing of face covering, hand and cough hygiene etc. is encouraging and will hopefully help to maintain or lower the level of disease in our State.

There are things citizens can do to both protect themselves while helping to maintain the progress we have seen to date and they are outlined below.

- 1.) In addition to following the other public health protocols, wear a face covering when you can physically distance (6') from others people who aren't members of your house hold; we can't control what others around us are doing, who they're doing it with and whether or not they following these protocols therefore we need to protect ourselves and our families. The following webpage provides information on how to prevent contracting the disease <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-prevention-and-treatment>
- 2.) If you are sick, please stay home. You can check to see if your symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 by visiting the following webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/check-your-symptoms-for-covid-19-online>
- 3.) If you need to be tested for COVID-19 the State has an interactive webpage to help you find a site: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>
- 4.) Since other parts of the country are experiencing increased levels of disease those planning travel this summer should review the State's Travel Order, effective 8/1/20; information on the Order can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>
- 5.) The information about this virus is evolving and to stay current please get information from reliable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (www.mass.gov/covid-19)
- 6.) If you test positive for COVID-19 or you are determined to be a close contact with someone who has tested positive, cooperation with your local Public Health Nurse or contact tracer is extremely important in slowing the spread of the disease.

If you have any questions or concerns you can always contact your Board of Health for more information.