



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1/12/2021

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Since Wed., January 5, 1,957 Residents have Tested Positive; City Lifts Suspension of Certain Group Activities Effective 1/14/2022

*Massachusetts Department of Public Health Updates Isolation and Quarantine Periods;
Health Department Distributes Demographic COVID-19 and Vaccination Data*

Framingham, MA - The Mayor's Office, Department of Public Health, and the Superintendent of Schools jointly announce that the pause on group activities will be lifted Friday, January 14, 2022 at 9:00am because alternative measures that support a safe return in all city buildings have been developed during the last week.

Between now and Friday morning, activity organizers will be communicating new protocols to their participants and giving them time to plan ahead. Group organizers, coaches, and activity leaders will contact participants directly with detailed information.

The pause was put into place, effective January 7, 2022 at 2:00pm, in response to a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases across the City. The January 5 announcement of the pause stated it would be lifted by January 21 and that the City would closely monitor whether two weeks was the appropriate duration.

"Today's announcement is the result of a week of collaborative discussion between City and school leadership," said Mayor Charlie Sisitsky. "We will continue working hard to move forward in the face of ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic."

As of today, January 12, the number of people in the City who have tested positive for COVID-19 is 14,375. Framingham currently has 3,331 active cases, with 10,719 recovered and 259 fatalities

These numbers only include confirmed cases reported through the Massachusetts data system; the Framingham Health Department does not receive the results from rapid antigen home tests. If you test positive you may not receive a letter or phone call from the Health Department Nurse at this time. Individuals are responsible for following these guidelines.

Because many City residents have been exposed through close contact with someone who tested positive, please follow the guidelines below from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to help keep yourself, your loved ones, and our community safe.

- If you test positive for COVID-19 follow these isolation guidelines, regardless of vaccination status:
 - Stay home for 5 days.
 - If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
 - Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves

- If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, follow the quarantine guidelines below based on your situation:
 - If you are fully vaccinated and have received your booster OR are fully vaccinated and not yet eligible to receive a booster or if you had COVID in the past 90 days:
 - Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
 - Test on day 5, if possible.
 - If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

Please remember: the best defense against a severe reaction to COVID-19 is vaccination. The City continues to encourage eligible residents to get vaccinated and to get a booster shot. Find a vaccine provider near you here: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>

- **Massachusetts Department of Public Health has released new updates Regarding Isolation and Quarantine Periods Effective Immediately:** Reference further details from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health [here](#).

- **Health Department Distributes Demographic COVID-19 and Vaccination Data:** The City's Department of Public Health distributes demographic COVID-19 data about confirmed COVID-19 cases and vaccination efforts in Framingham. Reference today's data release [here](#).

- **Update on the Vaccine Equity Initiative in Framingham:** Learn more at the State's Vaccine Equity Initiative dashboard [here](#).

- Local COVID-19 testing resources can be referenced [here](#).

- **The Public Health Nursing Clinic Hours are:**

- **Rapid BinaxNow COVID-19 Testing BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:** Monday-Thursday, 1-4 p.m. Please call 508-532-5667 to make an appointment. Face coverings required.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccines, Appointments recommended, vaccine availability will change from day to day:** Monday-Thursday, 4-7 p.m. Please call 508-532-5667 to make an appointment. Face coverings required.
 - **Other Nursing Services, childhood vaccinations, lead screening, tuberculosis testing, and more, NO appointment needed:** Monday-Thursday, 4-7 p.m.
- Additional local COVID-19 testing resources can be referenced [here](#).

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