



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Forty-five Additional Residents Test Positive, City Learns of Two New COVID-19-Related Fatalities; City Tracking and Working with 195 Residents Quarantined Due to Close Contact with Positive Cases; Curbside Textile Collection/Pink Bag Program to Resume May 4, 2020

- **Forty-five additional residents test positive, City learns of two new COVID-19-related fatalities:** The number of people in the City who have tested positive for COVID-19 is now 883. With 198 cases recovered and 28 fatalities, Framingham currently has 657 active cases. Following the guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Framingham Department of Health has not shared any additional information about those who have tested positive because of privacy laws. The Department contacts the people who were potentially exposed and the owners of the businesses or places of employment where the potential exposures occurred to inform and counsel them on next steps (contact tracing).
- **City is currently tracking and working with 195 residents quarantined due to having close contact with positive cases:** When a Framingham resident tests positive for COVID-19, the Framingham Health Department conducts contact tracing. In contact tracing, those who have come in close contact with infectious people are sought and notified of potential exposure. According to the Centers for Disease Control, factors to consider when defining close contact include proximity, the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk), whether the person who tested positive has symptoms (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk) and whether the "positive" individual was wearing a face covering (which can efficiently block respiratory secretions from contaminating others and the environment). Once the close contacts are identified, the Health Department quarantines them for 14 days, conducting periodic check-ins, and provides support during that time to prevent possible transmission. Through the mandated quarantine, the Department delivers essential needs such as food and over-the-counter medicines if requested. After the 14 days, and if the person has not gotten sick, close contacts are no longer in quarantine.
- **Vendor for curbside textile collection (Pink Bag Program) resumes collections on May 4:** Simple Recycling, the City's vendor for [curbside textile collection \(Pink Bag Program\)](#), will resume collection operations in Framingham Monday, May 4. "After carefully re-examining the [State of Massachusetts Executive Order](#), Simple Recycling's curbside recycling service does fall under the [essential services](#) category," said Vice President of Municipal Relations, Sonny Wilkins. Residents can request additional pink bags from Simple Recycling on their [website](#).

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