

COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

October 19, 2020:

The Town of Mansfield continues its community update on our website with our up to date information and important tips for the public as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more complete information, please see the town [coronavirus webpage](#).

- **As of today, please see the below chart that represents our communities COVID-19 relates cases:**

<i>Mansfield Covid-19 Workflow</i>	#	
Positive COVID-19 under isolation	13	(updated 10/19 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	215	
Total tested positive since beginning:	242	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	Yellow	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	14	(updated 10/19 08:00) Last Covid death in Mansfield 5/18/20

- [COVID-19 Prevention and Carpooling](#)

Many of the things you do to help prevent colds and the flu can help protect you against other respiratory viruses, including COVID-19:

- **Wash your hands often** with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose and mouth.
- **Clean things that are frequently touched** (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- **Cover your mouth** when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.
- **Stay home if you are sick** and avoid close contact with others.

Even if you do not have symptoms, stay home as much as you can and practice social distancing if you must go out. That's because you can be sick with COVID-19 and spread the illness to others as much as 48 hours before you have symptoms.

There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this novel coronavirus infection.

Practice social distancing while using rideshares, paratransit, taxis and personal vehicles:

- Limit number of occupants in vehicle whenever possible
- All occupants should wear face covering at all times while in the vehicle
- Open vehicle windows whenever possible
- Keep disinfectant wipes in vehicle to clean touchpoints after passenger(s) exits the vehicle (e.g., door handles, instrument panel, door locks, window controls)



STOP COVID-19
Keep yourself and
your passengers safe.

- Limit number of occupants
- All occupants should wear a face covering
- Open vehicle windows
- Clean touch points frequently

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE A LIFE

Learn more at [Mass.gov/StopCOVID19](https://www.mass.gov/StopCOVID19)



- **COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Initiative Overview**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced a comprehensive set of resources to support tenants and landlords during the financial challenges caused by the pandemic. The goal of this initiative is to keep tenants safely in their homes and to support the ongoing expenses of landlords once the pause of evictions and foreclosures expire on Saturday, October 17th. This strategy was developed by a cross-agency team assembled by the Administration in coordination with the Massachusetts Trial Court to manage the end of the moratorium on October 17th and reflects input from a broad range of stakeholders.

The Administration is making a \$171 million total commitment this fiscal year, with \$112 million of new funding to support new and expanded housing stability programs during the remainder of the fiscal year, including:

- \$100 million commitment this fiscal year to expand the capacity of the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program to provide relief to renters and landlords impacted by COVID-19;
- \$48.7 million to HomeBASE and other rapid rehousing programs for when tenants are evicted and are at risk of homelessness;
- \$12.3 million to provide tenants and landlords with access to legal representation and related services prior to and during the eviction process, as well as community mediation to help tenants and landlords resolve cases outside of court;
- \$6.5 million for Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs), the “front door” for those facing a housing emergency; and
- \$3.8 million for the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP), to provide case management support and to act as a neutral party to help tenants and landlords come to agreement.

More information can be found on the [webpage](#).

- **[Tips for a Safe and Healthy Halloween](#)**

Residents and communities should follow safe and healthy tips to participate in Halloween activities that may limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. As a reminder, any Halloween activities are subject to the current state [gathering size limits](#) as well as applicable [sector-specific workplace safety standards](#).

Consistent with the [Halloween activity guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), some things to keep in mind in celebrating Halloween this year include:

- Enjoy Halloween **outside** rather than attending indoor events.
- Place candy on a platter instead of a bowl
- Instead of traditional trick or treating, opt for one-way trick-or-treating, with treats placed outside of the home for trick-or-treaters as a “grab and go” while keeping distance from others.

- Consider leaving hand sanitizer by any treats left out for trick-or-treaters to use.
- Wear a face mask or face covering. For more information on face masks and face coverings, please see the state's [Mask Up MA](#) webpage.
 - A costume mask is not a substitute for a face mask or face covering. To protect yourself and others, ensure you are wearing a protective face mask or covering instead of or in addition to a costume mask.
- Observe good hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of alcohol-based sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol. Carry hand sanitizer and use it often, especially after coming into contact with frequently touched surfaces and before eating candy.
- Refrain from touching your face.
- Decorate your yard for others to enjoy from their car or while on a socially-distanced walk.
- Hold virtual costume contests or pumpkin carving events.
- Celebrate with members of your household with a Halloween-themed meal, Halloween movie night, or by preparing a Halloween scavenger hunt.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet of physical distance from all other participants who are not members of the same household.
- Avoid:
 - Attending crowded costume parties held indoors, or any gatherings that exceed indoor or outdoor gathering limits;
 - Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming; and
 - Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household.
 - Indoor haunted houses; and
 - Hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household.
 - Stay home and refrain from Halloween activities, including handing out Halloween treats, if:
 - you feel unwell;
 - you have tested positive for COVID-19;
 - you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19; or
 - you have traveled to or from a state that is not classified as lower risk within the last 14 days. For more information on lower risk states, please see the state's COVID-19 [Travel Order](#) webpage.
- [Get a Flu shot](#)

Influenza (flu) is a disease of the body's respiratory system, which includes the nose, throat, and lungs. Flu is caused by a virus and it can be very serious. Every year in the U.S. seasonal flu causes thousands of

hospital admissions and deaths. Getting an annual flu vaccine is the best protection. Getting a flu shot is even more important this year due to COVID-19. Many symptoms of the flu and COVID are similar. A flu shot protects you, your family, and preserves health care resources during the pandemic.

Find out where you can get a flu vaccine by asking your primary care provider, going to a local pharmacy, or visiting vaccinefinder.org. The flu vaccine helps your body protect against the flu and it is your best protection against the virus. Getting flu vaccine will not give you the flu.

- **A Small Survey for Health, a Big Impact for you**

How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your life? The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is trying to better help people through the COVID-19 crisis by hearing about their experiences and challenges right now. By taking this survey, you will provide information that will directly affect your community. Along the way you'll also be provided resources that help connect you with things like **FOOD, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, and PARENTING RESOURCES**. Your answers are anonymous. The survey will ask questions about the following:

- Your experience protecting yourself from COVID-19
- If you had COVID-19, what your experience was like with symptoms and testing
- Your ability to access basic needs like medical care and essential supplies
- Your physical health and mental wellbeing
- How the COVID-19 crisis has impacted your housing, education, employment and income
- Basic questions about you, like your age, gender, race, and where you live (but we do not ask about sensitive information that can be used to identify you)

Survey Link: www.mass.gov/COVIDsurvey

This survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Anyone 14 or older who lives in Massachusetts can take the survey. If you have any questions about this survey, you may contact: covid19survey@mass.gov. Frequently Asked Questions: [FAQ document](#)

This research will be reviewed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Institutional Review Board (MA-DPH IRB). If you wish to speak with someone from the MA-DPH IRB, you may contact them at DPH.IRB@mass.gov or by phone (617) 624-5647.