

COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

October 26, 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	20	(updated 10/26 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	226	
Total tested positive since beginning:	261	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	Yellow	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	15	(updated 10/121 08:00) Last Covid death in Mansfield 10/06/20

- [Tips for Voters to Reduce Spread of COVID-19](#)

There are steps you can take to help you vote and minimize your risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. The more prepared you are, the less time you may have to spend at the voting site.

When voting, you [can protect yourself and others if you:](#)

- avoid close contact: try to stay at least 6 feet apart of other people, especially those not wearing a mask
- wear a mask around others
- take care when touching surfaces and [wash your hands](#) often or, if not possible, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol

Before you vote:

1) Check that you are [registered](#)

- This may increase your available voting options, and can also help you spend less time at your voting place

2) Check [how you can vote](#)

- Some states offer early voting and, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some have expanded this option
- Consider early voting, if available, in case you are unable to vote on election day
- States must offer [accessible options for people with disabilities](#), but options may vary by state, so check ahead of time what your state's option may be
- If you live in a [long-term care facility](#) or similar place, you may be able to have supervised absentee voting

3) Check when and [where you can vote](#)

- Your place to vote may have changed from previous elections because of COVID-19
- If you are [at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19](#), plan to vote when it is not so busy, like mid-morning
- Check ahead for places or times you can vote
- Check ahead with your place to vote for options for people with disabilities

4) Plan how you can get to your place to vote in the safest way possible

- Try to avoid crowded ride sharing services, buses, or trains
- [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#)
- Some public and private transport services offer free or cheaper rides for voting
- Older people or people with disabilities may be able to get help with getting to their voting place
 - Check if in your area private carpool companies, volunteer organizations or your city public transportation offer these services
- If you drive and if you are able to check the voter line, join when the line is shorter

5) Plan for someone to take care of your loved ones

- Taking children with you to vote can increase their risk of getting COVID-19
- If you are the main caregiver at home, ask someone to watch your loved ones
- Ask this person to wear a mask if they don't live with you

6) Be prepared so you can limit the time you are in your voting place

- This will help reduce risk for COVID-19 by avoiding delays when you vote
- If you can, fill in any registration forms before going to vote
- The more prepared you are, the less time you may have to spend at the voting site
- Check to see if your state has sample ballots
- To speed up voting, you can make a list or fill in a sample ballot to take with you

The day you vote:

The more prepared you are, the more you reduce your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.

1) People who are sick can follow [CDC advice for when to be around others](#).

2) Bring your own supplies

- Use this checklist to remember things to bring with you when you go to vote:
 - Necessary documentation such as your identification (check with your voting site)
 - A mask
 - An extra mask
 - Tissues
 - Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
 - Water
 - Black ink pen
 - Bring prepared items with you (e.g., registration forms, sample ballots)

3) Wear a [mask](#)

- You *should* wear a mask consistently and correctly in public and around people who don't live with you.
 - If you must take your mask off, use hand sanitizer before and after
 - Have an extra mask in case yours gets wet or dirty
- A few people [might not be able to wear a mask](#) because of a disability or condition.

4) Protect yourself [when using transport](#)

- Open windows if you can
- Wear a mask
- Avoid touching things if you can and use hand sanitizer if you do
- Stay 6 feet (about two arm lengths) apart from others if you can

5) Clean your hands often

- [Wash your hands](#) or [use a hand sanitizer](#) with at least 60% alcohol before entering and after leaving your place of voting
- [Use a hand sanitizer](#) with at least 60% alcohol before and after touching items that many others may have touched, such as door handles
- Do not wipe down voting equipment unless you are told to do so

6) Keep your distance from others

- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' lengths) from other people as much as you can
- Stay apart even if you are wearing masks

HALLOWEEN 2020

Keep yourself, your loved ones, and your community safe this Halloween by following the CDC and MA Department of Public Health COVID-19 guidelines below.



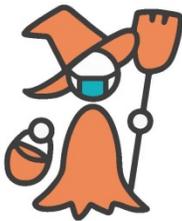
General reminders



*Gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors. For indoor and outdoor gatherings of more than 10 people where participants other than those in the same household will be in attendance, all persons over the age of 5 must wear a face covering unless they have a medical condition. For more details, see [Governor's COVID-19 Order No. 52](#).

Trick-or-Treating

Modifications to traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating are required in order to protect everyone's safety. Please follow these simple guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19:



FOR TRICK-OR-TREATERS

- Maintain 6 feet physical distance from anyone not in your household.
- Avoid large groups or clustering at doorsteps.
- Make sure your costume includes a mask that covers your nose and mouth and is effective at limiting the spread of COVID-19 (See the [Mask Up MA](#) webpage).
- Carry hand-sanitizer and wash hands thoroughly before eating anything.
- Do not participate if you are feeling unwell, exhibit any [COVID-19 symptoms](#), or if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

FOR THOSE HANDING OUT TREATS

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after preparing treat bags or candy for trick-or-treaters.
- Consider lining up pre-packed treat bags for families to take outside while maintaining social distancing, such as at the end of a driveway or yard.
- Wear [a mask](#) and maintain 6 feet physical distance from any trick-or-treaters.



AVOID THE FOLLOWING HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES

- ✗ Attending crowded indoor costume parties, or any other large indoor gatherings.
- ✗ Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming.
- ✗ Participating in activities like hayrides or tractor rides if you cannot socially distance 6 feet from other participants who are not in your household.

For more information on Halloween COVID-19 guidelines, visit:

[Mass.gov: Halloween During COVID-19](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Holiday Celebrations \(Halloween\)](#)

- **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](#).

- **[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](https://www.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.