

BOARD OF HEALTH



TOWN OF HEATH Massachusetts

November 1, 2021

Dear Heath Residents,

This is an important notice from the Heath Board of Health to update residents on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Franklin County, and even closer at home in Heath. Over the past two weeks we have had several Heath residents test positive for COVID. We have been grappling with various difficulties during the pandemic, and while we have made great strides in preventing the virus, we still have a lot of work to do. Currently, Franklin County has a COVID positive test rate of 1.36%, compared to the Massachusetts Statewide positive test rate of 1.76%. So that we can continue decreasing positive test rates, all residents are encouraged get fully vaccinated, get the booster vaccine, and wear a mask when entering public buildings.

As you may be aware, a mask mandate was enacted in September and remains in place for all residents, regardless of vaccination status, who enter public buildings in the Town of Heath as well as many of our surrounding Franklin County communities. Please remember that this includes not only municipal buildings, but also businesses, churches, and private buildings that welcome the public. Your continued use of masks inside buildings accessed by the public significantly reduces the risk of spreading COVID and will further reduce our positive tests rate. This will help us to ultimately achieve our goal of lifting the local mask mandate. Additionally, it isn't too late to get your vaccination or booster.

In Franklin County, anyone over the age of 12 can now be vaccinated and children ages 5 and up will be eligible for the vaccine within the next 2 weeks.....stay tuned.

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Vaccine information and locations to receive vaccination can be found on the Heath website for current and up to date information on how to get vaccinated or places near you to get a booster.

Further information on vaccinations can be found at:

<https://vaxfinder.mass.gov>

<https://frcog.org/program-services/cooperative-public-health-services/vaccines/>

Information on COVID testing can be found at:

<https://frcog.org/covid-testing-options-as-of-9-21-20/>

Additional sources of reliable information and recommendation can be found at:

Local: <https://frcog.org>

State: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-updates-and-information>

National: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you have any questions regarding the status of COVID, please contact me via the Board of Health Clerk's office at the Town Hall at 413-337-4934 ext. 8, or via the Board of Health email:

boh@townofheath.org

Sincerely,

Eugene Garland

Gene Garland
Chairman, Board of Health