



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

COVID-19

WEEKLY REPORT

MIDDLETON BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL CONFIRMED
COVID CASES AS OF
APRIL 10, 2020: 23**

SEX	
Male	11
Female	12
Unknown	N/A
AGE GROUP	
<19 years of age	0
20-29 years of age	2
30-39 years of age	2
40-49 years of age	5
50-59 years of age	8
60-69 years of age	1
70-79 years of age	4
>80-89 years of age	1
DEATHS	
Attributed to COVID-19	2

The Town of **Middleton Health Department** continues to monitor the disease in the community.

Middleton's Public Health Nurse (PHN) and Public Health Director utilize the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) to receive COVID-19 disease information within the community.

Respectively, this allows the Health Department to conduct proper surveillance, contact tracing outreach for quarantining and isolation, and clinical direction by the PHN when warranted.

The Health Director is the Incident Commander for the community during this pandemic response and collaborates weekly with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The Town Administrator is the Public Information Officer for this response.

The LEPC consists of, but not limited to the Health Department, EMS/Fire, Police, Town Administration, DPW, Senior Center, Schools, Correctional Facility, Regional Dispatch, and Municipal Staff to collectively plan in the local response.

REMINDERS

We all need to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. **To screen your symptoms visit www.bouyhealth.com**

Please **stay home** as much as possible.

Practice Social Distancing

- If you need to go out to get essentials like groceries, wear a facial covering, stay at least 6 feet away from others, and be efficient
- Avoid gatherings of any kind.

Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds. If you don't have immediate access to soap and water, use hand sanitizer.

Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Be especially careful around **high-risk** individuals, such as older adults or those with underlying health conditions.

Properly notify EMS/Fire and Police if you seek assistance from them and are symptomatic and/or COVID-19 positive.



DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Middleton Board of Health / Health Department

On 3-24-20 the Board of Health declared a local public health emergency. Additionally, the board established local orders more strict than the state orders to enhance protective measures specific to the community. Through the orders, the Director of Public Health has the authority and discretion to implement such preventative measures without relying or waiting on state guidelines. Although corporate push back from a few businesses existed, public health law has strong legal backing in order to protect the public's health, and therefore, measures were put in place through this local authorization.

On 4-8-20 the Board of Health declared another emergency order for enhanced guidelines and procedures for remaining retail stores (including grocery, dairy, etc.) that are essential service stores. For example, Market Basket implemented directives such as one way aisles, occupancy limits, and personal protective equipment recommendation for employees. Richardson's Dairy implemented grocery style take out service of ice cream. No individual custom orders, scooping, or service utensil distribution, along with implementing social distance markings and signage.

The Middleton Health Department participates in weekly conference calls with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Local Area Health Directors/Public Health Nurses, and the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCCs) to collectively plan and strategize. Middleton's Public Health Nurse speaks daily with multiple Epidemiologists to properly administer disease surveillance and to provide guidance to residents associated with COVID-19.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Fire

The Middleton Fire Department (MFD) has modified their dispatch protocols to try to deal with the COVID-19 emergency. Proper screening of incoming dispatch calls are in place so residents can notify first responders if they are suspect of confirmed with COVID-19. The MFD has modified their personal protective equipment (PPE) protocol to help protect ourselves and the people they respond to. To date they have responded to at least eight (8) COVID-19 related cases. The MFD continues to request Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Police

The Middleton Police Department (MPD) continues to provide public safety within the community while providing life safety responses assisting EMS/Fire in COVID-19 responses. The MPD has to ensure continuity of operations of the department's workforce while implementing preventative exposure risk planning that ensures mission critical functions during the pandemic. The MPD has been instrumental in assisting essential service facilities in overseeing public cooperation at facilities like Market Basket.

DPW (Public Works)

The Middleton DPW continues to provide services to the town through keeping the transfer station operational while incorporating public health physical distance measures at the transfer station (closed swap shop, limited amount of vehicles inside for recycling, signage, employee PPE). The DPW continues to conduct burial services, field and grounds/parks maintenance, and preparing equipment for future projects.

Senior Center / Council On Aging

The Council on Aging (COA) continues to serve our senior population during the COVID-19 response. They have delivered over 300 meals (approximately 100 meals/week) delivered to the doorsteps of our senior residents, in addition to stocking the food pantry for reserves for future weeks. Additionally the COA has provided services for seniors, such as but not limited to, grocery shopping, wellness phone calls, pet walking, trash pick up, simple tax preparation, technology support for Facebook and Zoom calls, text and pen pals, online games, story sharing, and newsletters. We are very thankful for the COA staff and community volunteers in making all these services happen during the pandemic.

Library

The Flint Library staff have been connecting and engaging the community with interactive online programs such as Story Hours, Art Classes, Tween Times, Anime, Poetry Contests, Book Discussions, Writing Groups, and Posting of Favorite Recipes. Through the library's website, people continue to check out e-books, audio books, magazines, and movies.

Town Administration, Schools, and Other Departments

Town Administration continues to provide guidance for town employees and departments in order to continue operations to serve the community. Human resources has provided COVID-19 guidelines for staff and first responders to follow for personal safety and exposure measures. Although offices are closed to the public, all departments are still operational and providing either remote or social distance measures. The Town has recently announced Tax Bills, Abatement, and deferral guidelines. Please visit the Town's website at www.middletonma.gov. The building department continues to accept, review, and issue permits through the town's online permitting portal and inspectors are conducting inspections on a case by case basis. The Tri-Town Elementary School Union has implemented remote learning curriculum and has provided meals to families in students in the Tri-Town weekly through their food consultants.