

Town of Middleton Updates on COVID-19

September 30, 2020

Aggregate Case Count March to Present (At Large and Correctional Facility): 207

At Large Active: 1

Correctional Facility Active (included in aggregate case count): 17

Recovered and out of Isolation: 183

COVID-19 Mortalities: 6

Over the past week, the Essex County House of Correction (aka Middleton Jail) has seen a sharp increase in COVID-19 positive cases. The increase started as a cluster in one ward, but is now within 3 wards within the facility. The correctional facility has their own medical staff and handles the surveillance within the institution. The local health department communicates with the facility when warranted.

The Town of Middleton Health Department continues to do contract tracing for cases within the community (excluding the jail). Currently, there is only 1 active case (at large) as of date for Middleton separate from the correctional facility. *Based on recent contact tracing, there is NO known evidence of community spread between the positive cases at the correctional facility and the community at large.*

The Town anticipates that due to the recent rise in Correctional Facility positive numbers, that Middleton will be categorized as a red community when the Commonwealth releases its updated risk maps today, September 30. We are working closely with DPH to make certain that the community has a strong understanding of our numbers. It is important to note that community decisions are not based on the map color or one cluster alone, and rather, we look at the past weeks of community data and we examine all the cases and all the data to make community decisions.

As more businesses, restaurants and activities open up, we continue to encourage the community to stay diligent in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The best ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is to avoid large gatherings, wear facial coverings, maintain social distancing and observe proper hygiene. These steps are of the utmost importance and reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Please join us in stressing this to your family, friends and neighbors. We understand that you may need to go to potentially crowded public places and stores so please follow our **Tips to Shop Safely** during COVID-19, found [here](#).

The COVID-19 information email is still active at

middletoncovid19@middletonma.gov Messages sent to this address are sent directly to Health Department Staff and will be answered during regular business hours.

The best source of guidance and recommendations is the DPH website:
www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.

We will continue to monitor this situation and will distribute necessary information and guidance.

Stay Healthy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek Fullerton".

Derek Fullerton, REHS/RS, CHO
Public Health Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Sheehan".

Andrew J. Sheehan
Town Administrator