



# Town of Danvers

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1 Sylvan Street, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923 | p: 978-777-0001 | f. 978-777-1025  
[www.danversma.gov](http://www.danversma.gov)

## Joint Statement from the Town on Resurgence of COVID19 in the Community

October 26, 2020

To the Danvers Community:

Due to a resurgence of COVID19 in the community, the Town Manager and School Superintendent are issuing this joint statement on how this is anticipated to affect the Town's services over the coming weeks and beyond.

The daily average of positive cases reported to the Danvers Board of Health has recently moved us from a low-risk community (green) to a moderate one (yellow); Beverly, Salem, and Peabody are also in this category, and cases counts continue to rise across the region and the State.

Unfortunately, this broad trajectory will likely continue, which would shift Danvers to the high-risk category (red) in the coming weeks. Moving to high-risk status triggers changes, most notably, to our schools and businesses. While the virus hit the area's long-term care facilities most hard in the spring, the scenario we now face is the disease among the community-at-large.

We hope that the plan outlined here will help us mitigate the virus's impact and avoid the sweeping closures we experienced in the spring. Nonetheless, given the forecast, and the actions needed to curtail it, this will not be without inconvenience to our residents.

As it relates to the schools, two consecutive weeks in the high-risk category will trigger the move to full remote learning, as detailed in the School Department's Reopening Plans. Town Leaders agree that two weeks in the high-risk category is an appropriate benchmark for our schools and for other community-related activities. Actions we may take would likely include curtailing in-person meetings of all Boards and Committees, as well as recreational programming and youth athletics. While subject to change, Town Hall will remain open to the public until doing so is deemed unsafe.

Per the Commonwealth's reopening plan, local businesses are currently in step 2 of phase 3 of the 4-phase plan. If the Town shifts into high risk status and remains there for three consecutive weeks, this would roll us back to step 1 of phase 3, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>.

Due to the re-emergence of COVID19 in proximity to the typical influenza season, we urge all residents to receive a flu vaccination. In addition, we want to remind all that there are several routine measures you should continue practicing to help limit the spread of both influenza and coronavirus in Danvers.

Please, always follow these guidelines:

- To protect yourself and others, wear a properly fitting face mask/covering
- Avoiding crowds and large groups – please limit parties and social gatherings
- Meet outdoors rather than inside, when possible
- Whenever meeting in small groups, stay at least six feet apart
- Always wash your hands for at least 20 seconds
- With any sign of symptoms, stay home, and seek testing

With Halloween coming up, we ask that you and your households practice common sense. At a minimum, please follow the CDC and Mass DPH guidance to ensure that the evening is safe, and remember that the safest way to celebrate the holiday is at home with your family.

For weekly updates on case numbers and other COVID19 related information, please visit <https://www.danversma.gov/information-on-coronavirus/>.

Thank you for your continued support and collective effort to keep our community safe.