

Four more deaths in Massachusetts from COVID-19, bringing the total number in the state to nine

Two females, both in their 70s and from Essex and Worcester counties, and two men – one in his 60s from Suffolk County and the other in his 80s from Norfolk County – have died from COVID-19-related illness, bringing the total number of deaths from the novel coronavirus in Massachusetts to nine. All four were hospitalized and had underlying health conditions.

As of 4 p.m. today, 8,922 Massachusetts residents have been tested for COVID-19 by the State Public Health Laboratory and commercial and clinical labs, up from 6,004 residents on Sunday. Of those 8,922 people, 777 have tested positive. For the first time, testing results for all of the clinical and commercial labs performing testing in Massachusetts is posted, in addition to results from the State Public Health Laboratory, on its COVID-19 online dashboard.

Today's case numbers reflect additional testing being performed in Massachusetts by several additional labs. In addition to the State Public Health Laboratory, Quest Diagnostics, and LabCorp, the online dashboard includes 10 more labs and their testing data. Expanded testing capacity in Massachusetts continues to be a focus of the work of the COVID-19 Response Command Center, and the effort to increase testing capacity across the state will continue.

The nine people who died ranged in age from 50s to 90s. Three of the six men were from Suffolk County, the other three from Norfolk, Hampden, and Berkshire counties. The three women were from Worcester, Essex, and Middlesex counties.

COVID-19 activity is increasing in Massachusetts. At this time, if people are only mildly symptomatic, they should speak to their healthcare provider about whether they need to be assessed in person. If not, they should stay at home while they are sick. Asymptomatic family members should practice social distancing and immediately self-isolate if they develop symptoms.

In the United States, there have been more than 33,400 cases of COVID-19 and more than 400 deaths, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Massachusetts and nationwide, the public is being asked to avoid crowds, stay 6 feet away from others, not shake hands or hug, and call/Facetime and online chat with friends and loved ones rather than meet face to face.

More information about COVID-19 can be found at www.mass.gov/covid19. For general questions, call 2-1-1.

Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust finds more trash and even fires in the middle of trails

We have been finding more and more individuals are getting outdoors and using our trails. While we encourage everyone to spend time outside, behavior (like starting a fire in the middle of a trail!!!) is completely unacceptable and dangerous.

In addition to this, we have also seen an increase in garbage,

especially in parking lots, and a lot more dog poop on the trails.

Although this is a strange and difficult time, rules still apply.

DNRT currently has fewer maintenance capabilities, and we need everyone's help in keeping our trails safe and clean.

Learn more:
<https://dnrt.org/rules-regulations-for-dnrts-reserves/>



Governor Baker Issues Orders for Stay At Home Advisory And Closure of Non-Essential Businesses until Tuesday April 7th.

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker issued an emergency order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of Tuesday, March 24th at noon until Tuesday, April 7th at noon. These businesses are encouraged to continue operations remotely.

The Baker-Polito Administration issued a list of designated businesses and other organizations that provide essential services and workforces related to COVID-19 that shall continue to operate brick and mortar facilities during this two-week time period. This list is based on federal guidance and amended to reflect the needs of Massachusetts’ unique economy. While these businesses are designated as essential, they are urged to follow social distancing protocols for workers in accordance with guidance from the Department of Public Health.

Businesses and organizations not on the list of essential services are encouraged to continue operations through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter or appear at the brick-and-mortar premises closed by the order.

Restaurants, bars, and other establishments that sell food and beverage products to the public are encouraged to continue to

offer food for take-out and by delivery if they follow the social distancing protocols set forth in Department of Public Health guidance. On-premises consumption of food or drink is prohibited.

Due to evolving spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, Governor Baker has directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay at home advisory outlining self-isolation and social distancing protocols. Residents are advised to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary activities during this two-week time period. Residents over 70 years of age or with underlying health conditions, who are considered at high risk when exposed to COVID-19, should limit social interactions with other people as much as possible.

The Baker-Polito Administration does not believe Massachusetts residents can be confined to their homes and does not support home confinement for public health reasons.

The Baker-Polito Administration Order also limits gatherings to 10 people during the state of emergency, a reduction from the 25 person limit established in an earlier order.

This includes community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, and any similar event or activity that brings together more than 10 persons in any confined indoor or outdoor space. The order does not prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people in an outdoor space, like a park or athletic field.

Categories of COVID-19 Essential Services:

Health Care & Public Health

Law Enforcement, Public Safety & First Responders

Food & Agriculture

Critical Manufacturing

Transportation

Energy

Water & Wastewater

Public Works

Communications and Information Technology
Financial Services
Defense Industry Base
Chemical Manufacturing & Hazardous Materials
Other Designated Community Based Essential Function &
Government Operations
News Media

Mayor Mitchell reports second case of coronavirus in New Bedford

On his Facebook account, Mayor Jon Mitchell reported a second positive case on Coronavirus in New Bedford.

“New Bedford now has its second positive Coronavirus case, and it is a reminder to everyone that the virus is indeed here. COVID-19 spreads more than twice as fast, and has a mortality rate more than ten times that of seasonal flu. Keeping your and your family’s distance from others now will save lives. Here are some important facts about prevention.”

Details on New Bedford’s first coronavirus case announced Saturday can be read [**here**](#).

Massachusetts offices announced three more deaths to coronavirus in the state bringing the total to five.

New Bedford's Green Bean closing for the short-term at 3 pm today

Green Bean, the popular coffee and sandwich shop at the corner of Union and Purchase streets will close their doors at 3 pm. Staff state they will open back up after coronavirus concerns alleviate. They are selling coffee in bulk at 50% until 3 pm.

Several other local businesses have either closed or plan on closing soon to include The Baker, Pa Raffas and Novo Mundo.

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Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech donates hundreds of medical supplies to the New Bedford Emergency Management Service

To assist medical professionals as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School donated hundreds of medical supplies normally used for vocational education training to the New Bedford Emergency Management Service.

These items, from GNBVT's medical assisting, dental assisting,

nurse assisting/health assisting, and Emergency Medical Technician programs were delivered by Superintendent/Director James O'Brien and Facilities Manager Zeb Arruda to the New Bedford Emergency Management Operations Center.



The medical items donated include:

- N-95 face masks
- Medical gloves
- Face shields
- Isolation gowns
- Infection control kits
- Alcohol prep pads

“In these very difficult times, we all must do what we can to help our first responders and medical professionals so they can do their jobs safely while protecting their own health,” said James L. O’Brien, Superintendent/Director of Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School. “After hearing the calls from medical professionals that they don’t have enough medical supplies we recognized that we could help in a small way here in our area by donating these items, while at the same time teaching our students a valuable lesson about how everyone in our community can make a difference.”



About Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School:

Our mission at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School is to provide an education that is rigorous, relevant, and meaningful to each student in a safe and supportive environment, resulting in academic, career, and technical excellence. With an enrollment of more than 2,000 students, GNBVT is among the largest vocational-technical high schools in Massachusetts serving New Bedford, Dartmouth and Fairhaven.

The education and the vocational skills provided by GNBVT prepare students for the workforce or higher education by making them well-rounded and responsible citizens. We instill passion in our students, which produces internal drive, enthusiasm, and pride. Through perseverance, we ensure that our students receive the best education and experiences by offering over two dozen career majors. With a graduation rate of 90.1%, GNBVT is committed to student success and encourages lifelong learning.

Since 2009, 100% of GNBVT graduates have had a post-secondary plan which includes college, further technical training, work, or military.

#GNBVTcommunity #GNBVTpride



Four Downtown New Bedford Businesses Have Announced They Are Closing Temporarily

No Problemo has announced that they will be closing for two weeks starting monday: "Ok y'all I'm calling it.... In a effort to do our part in keeping people home we are gonna shut down for two weeks. I felt it was the right thing to do and right time to do it. Thanks to everyone who has always supported us and know we will be back better then ever.... or at least just as Good as we are now."

Sugar Plum Sweets which just opened for the season last week announced on their Facebook page Sunday night they were closing. Here was their message: "After being open for only a week we have decided to close up temporarily. Hopefully this will all blow over very soon! Stay safe!"

Earlier in the evening Cafe Italia posted this:

"Due to the COVID 19 pandemic we decided to close temporarily until we can reopen again.

We want to keep our Family, Friends, Customers, and Community safe.

We look forward to seeing and serving all our customers soon.

Please stay healthy!! From all of us at Cafe Italia:

We Thank You for your continued support and can't wait to have you all back at Cafe Italia enjoying your favorite Italian food. Stay healthy take care of yourselves and others."

Finally, BesTeas which also opened very recently shared this post on social media:



We know that these decisions are not made lightly and are hopeful that all of these establishments are able to come back stronger than ever when this storm has passed.

New Bedford's Pa Raffa's Will Be Closing Down Until Further Notice

On their Facebook page tonight Pa Raffa's Italian restaurant, a New Bedford North end staple, has announced that they will be closing during the Covid-19 outbreak.



We're counting the day until they re-open!

New Bedford's Churrascaria Novo Mundo Announces Closure Until Further Notice

From Carla Amaral, Owner of Novo Mundo:

Hi Everyone! First things first, we want to take a moment to say **Thank You to each and everyone of you who has thought of us during this extremely difficult time.** Whether it be picking up, having something delivered, sending us encouraging messages and/or supporting us here on social media by spreading the word of our day to day. We truly appreciate it.

A Thank You as well to the fellow business owners who've showed us such a sense of community. Having each other to lean on has been a gift. We have decided to close, starting Monday, March 23 (2020), until further notice. As Carla said today, "In this time of having to keep everyone safe, it is MY job to make sure that not only are WE safe, but keeping our customers safe as well. That's number one."

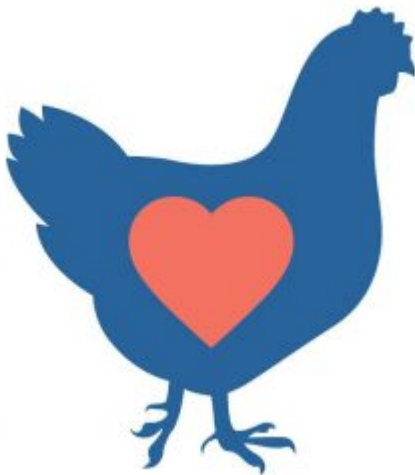
Our hope is that with taking these steps we can help flatten the curve. This last week alone has been a hard one for so many reasons. We love what we do and all of our customers. Novo Mundo goes beyond just serving ; it goes beyond food. It's where we as a crew, a secondary family, spend our days laughing with you all, crying, giving hugs (you know we hug guys!), celebrating birthdays, celebrating anniversaries, celebrating LIFE! It's been so hard not having that here within these walls. To say that this hasn't been emotionally

and mentally challenging would be a lie.

We would also like to take this time to thank all medical personnel and essential workers who have been diligently working hard every single day, helping so many combat this unfortunate epidemic. Our thoughts are with you and we ask each and every one of our customers and friends to also keep these amazing people in your thoughts. They are risking themselves every single day, so that we can all be safe.

Take care of one another, take care of yourselves. We hope that when the time comes, you will all return with hungry bellies to serve and ready to fill this empty space again with laughter and celebrations. Many small businesses are now going to be facing a great uphill battle. We hope that when the time comes, together as a community, we will all pull together and be stronger than ever.

With love,
Carla & The Novo Mundo Crew



Nantucket issues 'Stay at Home Order' starting Monday

The following statement was issued by the Town of Nantucket:

Please be advised that the Nantucket Select Board and the Nantucket Health & Human Services Director with endorsement by the Board of Health have voted to issue a Stay at Home Order (aka "Shelter in Place Order").

Effective Monday, March 23, 2020 at 5:00 PM through Monday, April 6, 2020 however to be reviewed by the Select Board, Public Health, Nantucket Cottage Hospital and the Incident Command weekly to determine when the Order will be suspended. The Board stresses that there is a possibility that this unprecedented public health event might last longer than the Governor's current school closing order.

All persons living in the Town and County of Nantucket are directed to stay at their place of residence until further notice. This not a "lockdown" and essential services such as grocery stores, pharmacies and restaurants (including take-out and coffee shops – for delivery or curbside pick-up only) remain open for business.

Visit:

<https://nantucket-ma.gov/1708/Stay-at-Home-Shelter-in-Place>
for full press release, emergency order and FAQs.

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