Public Health Announcement

Dear North Reading Residents,

The North Reading Board of Health wishes to make the following public announcement. Since March of 2020, the North Reading Health Department/Board of Health has followed the COVID-19 CDC/MDPH/DESE/EEC guidance and adjusted North Reading directives and orders as these bodies have changed their guidance for the community of North Reading. During this time the Town of North Reading has established a COVID-19 working group consisting of the Town Administrator, Director of Public Safety, Fire Chief, Superintendent of Schools, Public Health Nurse and Director of Public Health

The COVID 19 working group has worked tirelessly to review all COVID-19 directives, guidance, information, community transmissions, and positivity and vaccinations rates and have made timely and sound fundamental and informative decisions for prevention and mitigation of COVID 19 disease transmission. These decisions have always been presented to the North Reading Board of Health for review and consideration. The Board of Health has always based its decisions on the impacts to the community and the science of the COVID-19 virus.

Since March 2020, the Board of Health/Health Department/COVID 19 group has worked to develop and implement public health tools for the residential, business and school communities to assist, combat and most recently learn to live with the COVID 19 virus. Those tools include COVID-19 public messaging, weekly updates, educational information, guidance and presentations, vaccination and booster clinics, local and regional testing as well as providing home test kits and masks.

As of today, the CDC/MDPH are close to considering/defining COVID-19 as an endemic. At this time, the Board of Health/Health Department/COVID 19 working group will continue to meet regularly and evaluate the COVID-19 community transmissions as well as positivity and vaccinations rates. The Board of Health/Health Department/COVID 19 group will continue following the CDC/MDPH/DESE EEC guidance and continue providing that same guidance and direction to the North Reading community

The Board of Health/Health Department /COVID-19 working group recommend as the following precautionary measures be taken to protect residents and their families to reduce the chance of infection from the COVID-19 virus:

Prevention: COVID-19 resources and guidance protect yourself, your family and your community.

1. **Get Vaccinated**: Town of North Reading Health Department recommends every North Reading resident get vaccinated and booster against the COVID-19 virus. The North Reading Health Department will continue to provide COVID019 vaccination clinics:

   https://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department/news/covid-19-adult-pediatric-booster-vaccination-clinic. To find other locations that are available throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Merrimack Valley please visit the vaccine finder on mass.gov or https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/

2. **Get Tested**: The Town of North Reading/Merrimack Valley COVID-19 Testing site. The North Reading Health Department is providing free COVID-19 testing at the Shriners Auditorium 99 Fordham Road Wilmington, Ma. To sign up and register go to the following registration link to make an appointment; https://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department/news/shriners-auditoriumcovid-19-testing

   **Home Test Kits**: The Town of North Reading has provided home test kits to residents in 2021 and will continue to provide residents home test kits commencing in June/July of 2022. The Federal
Government will also provide residents with home test kits. To find out more information please visit the following link https://www.covid.gov/tests

3. **COVID-19 Vaccine Information**: To access current information on COVID-19 vaccines and frequently asked questions, please visit the following links below:


4. **What to do if you have or have been exposed to COVID-19**:

- https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#what-do-i-do-if-my-test-is-positive-

5. **Treatments for COVID-19 - Positive for COVID-19?** If you or any of your loved ones tests positive for the COVID-19 virus, the Health Department recommends that you get treatment, right away. For the most updated COVID-19 treatment, please visit the following link: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/treatments-for-covid-19

6. **Social Distancing**: The Health Department recommends that residents when out, vaccinated or not, to properly social distance to prevent contracting the COVID-19 virus. To learn more on proper social distancing please visit the following links: https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-updates-and-information

7. **COVID-19: How to Select and Wear a Mask/Facial Coverings**: The Health Department advises wearing a mask over your mouth, nose and chin is important to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in locations where a mask is advised or required. To learn more please visit the following link: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-how-to-select-and-wear-a-mask

For further information on COVID-19 press releases please visit https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-updates-and-information

Residents with questions about COVID-19 can contact Mr. Robert F. Bracey, Director of Public Health at the Town of North Reading Health Department 978-357-5242 or visit the Town of North Reading Health Department web site at www.northreadingma.gov/health-department

**Note**: The North Reading Board of Health will continue to follow the COVID-19 CDC/MDPH/DESE/EEC guidance, monitor positivity rates in town and adjust North Reading directives and orders as necessary for the protection and betterment of the community.