

## **Board of Health Press Release - 6/18/20**

Due to the current state of COVID19, the Stoneham Board of Health has found it prudent to shift its focus towards the current phasing process for businesses, ensuring that all prospective open establishments are up-to-date with their COVID19 Response Plans as per the State mandate. The shift in focus comes at a time where currently tracked public health metrics show drastic improvements across the State. Over the past two weeks, Stoneham has increased its case count by 3 reported cases, indicating a 21% chance of a reported case on any given day. During the surge period in April, case reporting ranged from anywhere between 10-30 cases per day. We are seeing a steep drop off in the number of reported cases in the county, and mortality/morbidity rates continue to fall, even as establishments begin to open and restrictions begin to be loosened. It is the duty of all residents to continue to conduct themselves in a courteous manner to ensure that these metrics continue to trend in the right direction.

There have been questions regarding the disparity between the State reported case count for Stoneham versus the case count being reported by the Town. These disparities are currently being investigated, and given the different reporting mechanisms being utilized (National Guard Mobile Initiative and State Community Tracing Collaborative), the Board of Health's initial theories would indicate that Federal reporting requirements may differ from Local reporting requirements. Again, these disparities are currently being investigated.

The Board of Health has issued guidelines regarding the upcoming Town elections and Town meeting to ensure that these crucial municipal events can happen in a safe and healthy manner. All seating will be 6 feet apart, and the Board of Health will be providing PPE to all attendees. The Board of Health has also ordered 60 touchless hand sanitizer stations to be placed in quantity at all Town owned facilities including schools, the library and the arena. We ask that these be utilized in large amounts as Stoneham public buildings begin to be reopened. For information on business openings, please refer to State DPH links at left of the page. The Stoneham Board of Health thanks you for your continued vigilance throughout this trying endeavor.

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