

Leverett area COVID-19 Status and Testing, 4/8/2021

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STATUS

Regarding reopening, on Monday, March 22, 2021 Massachusetts entered Step 1 of Phase IV <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>. Accordingly, stadiums, arenas, and ball parks can now operate at 12% capacity. Indoor gathering limit increases to 100; Outdoor gathering limit increases to 150. Dance floors are allowed at weddings, and overnight summer camps are permitted. Exhibition and convention halls may begin operations. A travel advisory urges a 10-day quarantine for anyone arriving in Massachusetts who has left the state for more than 24 hours. Exempt are the fully vaccinated and those with a negative test result less than 72 hours old <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-advisory>.

TESTING

Results

Over the past two weeks (3/21/2021-4/3/2021), 157 new cases have been identified in Franklin County (positivity rate of 1.37%), an increase in new cases versus the previous two-week interval; 416 new cases have been identified in Hampshire County (0.66% positivity rate), a negligible change from the previous two-week interval. That's 15.8 new cases per day per 100,000 people in Franklin County and 18.1 new cases per day per 100,000 people in Hampshire County. Statewide, this number was 25.6 new cases per day per 100,000 people <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>. In this area, Athol, Granby, Orange, and Ware are in the highest risk (red) category, Amherst and Belchertown, Montague, and Greenfield are in the moderate-risk (yellow) category, Northampton is in the low-risk (green) category, and all other towns including Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hadley, Leverett, New Salem, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury, and Wendell, are in the lowest-risk (gray) category <https://www.wcvb.com/article/massachusetts-coronavirus-covid-19-community-spread-risk-map-color-coded/33646711>.

As of 4/2/2021, the British variant, B.1.1.7, first identified in Brockton, Massachusetts in mid-January, has now been identified in over 712 cases in the state, including in Hampshire County. The CDC estimates that this lineage now accounts for nearly 6% of coronavirus cases in the state. After first identifying the South African variant, B.1.351, in mid-February in Middlesex County, 11 additional cases have been identified statewide. On 3/16/2021, the Brazilian variant, P.1., was identified in a Barnstable County woman. Fifty-seven more cases have been identified in the state since.

Asymptomatic individuals

Stop the Spread testing site at Greenfield Community College offers free PCR tests for coronavirus for Massachusetts residents (<https://www.cic-health.com/stopthespread>). Open 6 days a week, results available in 24-36 hours.

Stop the Spread testing site at UMass-Amherst offers nasal swab PCR testing at the Mullins Center free to asymptomatic Massachusetts residents age 10 and older by appointment <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/communitycovidtest>. The site is open Tuesday 7 AM - 5 PM, Wednesday 8:30 AM - 5 PM, and Thursday 8:30 - 7 PM <https://uma.force.com/covidtesting/s/>. Results available in 24-36 hr.

Community Health Center of Franklin County offers tests on Tuesday in Greenfield and Fridays in Orange www.chcfc.org/testing.

Symptomatic individuals: Call your health care provider.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center offers daily testing with a doctor's referral, symptomatic or not <https://www.baystatehealth.org/covid19/testing> or 413-795-8378.

Valley Medical Group in Greenfield offers testing by appointment for its patients for any reason Monday - Friday 8 AM - 4 PM (413-774-6301).