

## Mayor's Update

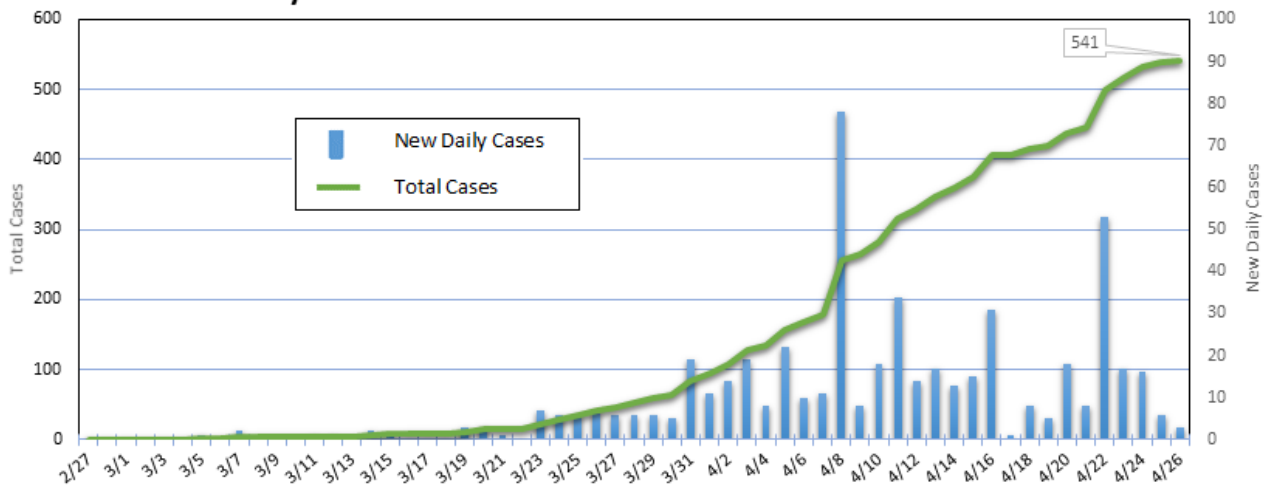
### Current Cases

There are now 541 Newton residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 through Sunday, April 26. Twenty-five (25) of those are newly reported cases since my last email to you on Friday evening which included data through Thursday, April 23. We'll know more as the week progresses if the decrease in newly reported cases continues.



Newly Reported Positive Cases by Date of Notification	Total Positive Cases	Data Through:
16	532	Friday, April 24
6	538	Saturday, April 25
3	541	Sunday, April 26

**Newton Positive Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Notification to Health and Human Services**



I encourage everyone to check the Newton Health and Human Services website which has a revealing chart updated weekly on positive cases that tracks the information based on when symptoms started (if that information is available) instead of when HHS was notified. Click [here](#).

### Restaurants Can Sell Groceries Too

During COVID-19, we need to both improve access to food and essential items (think toilet paper!) for Newtonians and support our wonderful restaurants. I am pleased to announce that in Newton restaurants may now sell grocery items to cook at home and may include dry goods like toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, etc. in their sales. I worked with our Health and Human Services, Inspectional Services and Planning Departments to make sure we do this safely. Restaurants must continue to

comply with all food handling requirements, including temperature and storage, proper labeling and ingredients, and observe the stated guidelines for operating during this pandemic.

The sale of non-prepared and non-food items should be a minor portion of restaurants' operations and will be just temporary for the duration of the emergency; the principal use should remain a restaurant, operating only through takeout and/or delivery during the state of emergency.

This is a positive way to come together as a community—restaurants obtaining through their supply chains hard to come by commodities and customers supporting them with purchases of not just their prepared foods but also other enjoyed and necessary items.

### **Please Hang in There**

I can understand why I'm beginning to get emails suggesting we loosen up our stay-at-home advisory and get people back to work. So many people are hurting financially. All of us are feeling housebound. Please hang in there. We have not yet had sufficient flattening of the curve or sufficient decreases in the transmission of COVID-19 yet to pivot to re-opening. (For example, the number of patients who are intubated in Greater Boston has not yet decreased.)

Continue to stay at home whenever possible. Practice physical distancing. Wash your hands, especially before and after being in public. Wear face coverings when outside and can't physically distance. Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces. Be safe. Save lives.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Congratulations to the entire staff at NewTV and Executive Director Bob Kelly as the Alliance for Community Media awarded our Newton cable television station "best community media center." I agree!

P.P.S. Our City employees, those delivering City services and our #NewtonTogether spirit have received kind words of support from so many. Here's a recent shout out from resident Mimi Tun: "I really want to thank the people who are working to pick up trash – they haven't missed a beat! I hope you can pass on our appreciation to the workers."

P.P.P.S Have you tried one of Newton's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department Zoom classes? They are free and we have quite a variety for people of all ages. Kids can try yoga or hula hoop, arts and crafts, creative writing, music, dance and drama. There's also adult strength training, virtual tours, meditation, tai chi, yoga and art. Click [here](#) for the whole lineup.

