

## Mayor's Update

### Current Cases

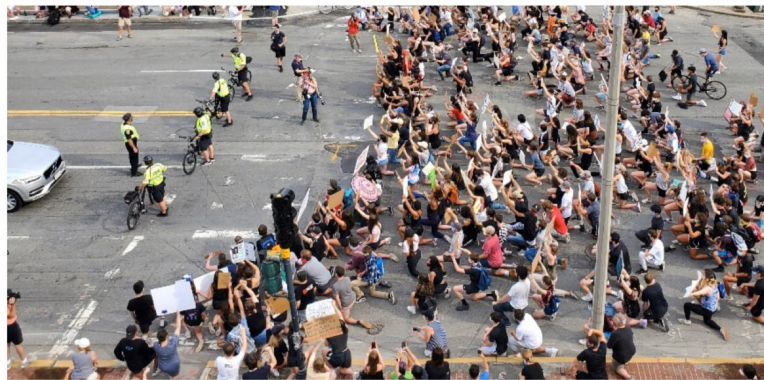
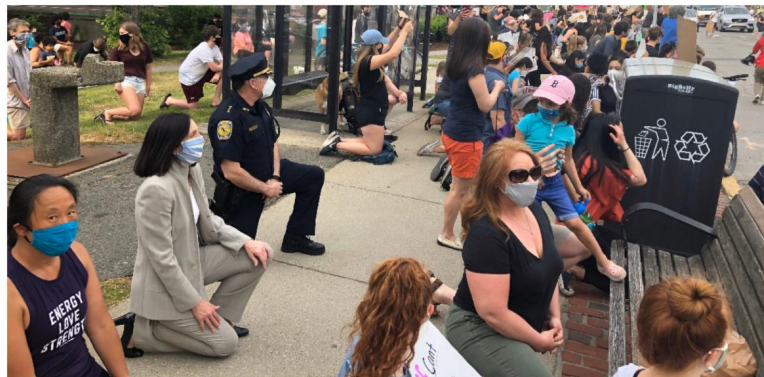
There are 759 Newton residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, according to preliminary data through Thursday, June 4. This is a decrease of 1 case since yesterday due to a duplicate case that has now been resolved. I'm encouraged that the number of new cases considerably slowed. I am hoping this continues as we re-open.



Newton-specific COVID-19 data is available [here](#).

Statewide data is available from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health [here](#).

*Yesterday Police Chief David MacDonald and I took a knee in solidarity with perhaps more than a thousand Newtonians to protest the killing of George Floyd, racism, and social injustice.*



### Apply for Emergency Housing Assistance

The deadline to be included in the lottery for Emergency Housing Assistance has passed. But, residents can still apply to Newton's Emergency Housing Assistance Fund. We're still in the midst of the process and it looks like approximately \$1.75 million of the \$2.5 million in funding may be allocated next week so we think that some funds will still be available.

New applications will be added to the wait list and will be processed if we're right that funds will still be available once all eligible households already on the lottery generated wait list are awarded assistance.

Newton residents who are experiencing a reduced income as a direct result of COVID-19 and earn 80% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI) at the time their application is submitted are encouraged to apply. Income-eligible Newton households may receive up to three months of rental or mortgage assistance (mortgage assistance only available to owners of affordable deed-restricted units). The assistance has a monthly cap of \$2,500 per household, or \$7,500 per household, for three months.

Metro West Collaborative Development is administering this program on behalf of the City of Newton. To apply, contact Metro West at [robyn@metrowestcd.org](mailto:robyn@metrowestcd.org) (preferred method) or 617-923-3505 x5. The details of this program can be found [here](#).



## Celebrating Our Graduates

The Class of 2020's script hasn't followed the expected storyline, but our high school seniors will be remembered for so much more than the dramatic changeover to remote learning. Just this week I've seen so many of them come together in this difficult period to force the adults around them, including me, to do better.

During graduation week, we're celebrating the Class of 2020 in two creative ways.

**CELEBRATION LANES:** On Sunday, the seniors and their families will travel through "Celebration Lanes" at Newton North and Newton South High Schools. Superintendent David Fleishman, teachers, School Committee members, City Councilors and I (physically distanced and in masks) will flank the roadside as graduates and their families drive, bike or walk along the routes in decorated vehicles or bikes.

Livestream the Sunday, June 7 "Celebration Lanes" here (thanks NewTV):

Newton South from noon – 1:30 pm: <https://vimeo.com/425302770>

Newton North from 3 pm – 4:30 pm: <https://vimeo.com/425303000>

**VIRTUAL CELEBRATIONS:** The festivities continue with Virtual Celebrations webcast online. Friends and family from around the world can watch online and celebrate our graduates. Class of 2020 seniors will be featured with individual 5 second clips of each as well as reflections from guests and dignitaries.

Newton North Virtual Celebration Webcast

Wednesday, June 10 at 6:00 pm

Video link from the Newton North HS Website here:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/nrhs>

Newton South Virtual Celebration Webcast

Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 pm

Video link from the Newton South HS Website here:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/nshs>

As we honor our graduates this week, we're keeping our fingers crossed that we can have in-person, cap and gown graduation ceremonies to award diplomas later this summer, pending public health guidance.

Congratulations Class of 2020 seniors!

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Today we wear orange to fight for a future free from gun violence and remind us that June 5<sup>th</sup> is National Gun Violence Awareness Day in Newton. City Hall will be lit in orange through June as a call to action as 100 people are killed by guns in American each day, with a disproportionate number being people of color.



P.P.S. Want a thank you sign for our frontline workers on your lawn? They are sprouting up around Newton thanks including Simon French, Lisa Gordon and the Village Bank and others. The signs are free with a donation to the Newton Food Pantry, the

Newton COVID-19 Fund or the Newton Wellesley Hospital COVID-19 Fund. Get more information and/or a sign [here](#).

P.P.P.S Accelerated work on the MBTA Green Line starts tomorrow, Saturday, June 6. Shuttle buses will replace trains between Riverside and Kenmore stations through Sunday, June 14, and again on Saturday, June 20 through Sunday, June 28. Get more information [here](#).

