

COVID-19 Data Breakdown by City and Town

Dear Local Public Health Colleagues,

Later this morning, EOHHS Secretary Marylou Sudders is expected to announce that the DPH COVID-19 website will include a breakdown of novel coronavirus cases by city and town, as the state takes additional steps to assess and report the burden of infection across the Commonwealth. This new weekly reporting, which will be updated each Wednesday, marks the latest in a series of new data points and information that we have recently made publicly available in addition to the data on the daily COVID-19 dashboard published each day at 4pm.

As you know, our testing efforts have greatly increased – we know that every community in the commonwealth has experienced the impact of coronavirus. Many of cities and towns reported this information directly to their residents. We have been asked to make this information public statewide – and now that the case numbers have increased, it is possible to make available by municipality.

As is standard public health practice, we will not release the number of positive cases if there are fewer than five cases in populations of 50,000 or less, to protect individual privacy. We request that cities and towns to continue to do the same with any local data releases.

Having the ability to look at this virus through the lens of its impact on specific cities and towns will help us identify potential ‘hot spots,’ inform the public health response, assist cities and towns working to slow the spread of this disease, and help the state appropriately deploy resources.

The reporting of city and town data is just the latest in a series of updates DPH has made to the COVID-19 website.

Thank you for all you are doing to support persons with COVID-19 and to stop the spread of the disease.