FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 09/16/2020

For further information contact:

Kelly McFalls kmcfalls@framinghamma.gov Tel (508) 532-5437 M (774) 285-1315

COVID-19 UPDATE

Since Monday, 22 Residents have Tested Positive, and 13 More have Recovered from COVID-19; Residents Who Test Positive for COVID-19 and have not Heard from the City's Public Health Department Within 24 Hours, should Call to Enable Contact Tracing;

Clarification: City Issuing \$500 Fines to Property Owners Violating the Governor's Order on Gatherings

- Since Monday, 22 residents have tested positive, and 13 more have recovered from COVID-19: The number of people in the City who have tested positive for COVID-19 is 2,145. With 1,897 recovered and 131 fatalities, Framingham currently has 117 active cases. The Framingham Health Department contacts the people who were potentially exposed and the owners of the businesses or places of employment where the potential exposures occurred to inform and counsel them on next steps (contact tracing). In addition to the active cases, the Health Department is following 73 residents in quarantine.
- Framingham residents who test positive for COVID-19 and have not heard from the City's Public Health Department within 24 hours should call to enable contact tracing and hear about further instructions and potential help: If you are a Framingham resident and have tested positive for COVID-19 but did not receive a phone call from a Framingham nurse twenty-four hours after receiving your test results, please call the Framingham Department of Public Health at (508) 532-5470. The department conducts contact tracing for every single newly diagnosed person in the City. Contact tracing includes notifying the people who were potentially exposed and the owners of the businesses or places of employment where potential exposures occurred to inform and counsel them on next steps. The Health Department also can advise the newly diagnosed on what they need to do to keep loved ones safe, and possibly help with food and medicine delivery and/or provide housing at a hotel to enable isolation, if needed. While the State informs the City of those who receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the City does not always receive accurate contact information, delaying contact tracing efforts.
- Clarification: City issuing \$500 fines to Framingham property owners violating the Governor's Order on gatherings: The Framingham Public Health Department, with support from the City's Police Department, has begun to levy fines for those violating the Governor's Order on gatherings to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Framingham's current spike in COVID-19 cases can be attributed to gatherings across the City. Under the Governor's Order, those who violate the restrictions on gatherings can be fined \$500 per incident. For single-family homes, it is the property owner or the renters of the homes who could be fined. For multi-family dwellings, such as apartment and condominium complexes, the City will work to identify the one hosting the gathering to determine who should be fined. If the event is held in a common area of an apartment or condominium complex, the property owner could be liable.