The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has revised their guidance to cities and towns and is now offering that each municipality can decide if they will share more detailed positive case counts for their community.

Following this revised guidance, the Town of Longmeadow will be releasing COVID-19 coronavirus positive case count information daily by 5PM, via the municipal website www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus. As of 1:00PM, Friday, April 3, 2020, there are 25 positive cases of COVID-19 as reported through the State database Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN).

MassDPH uses MAVEN for infectious disease surveillance, with data collected by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences (BIDLS), this information is then maintained in MAVEN. MAVEN contains epidemiological, clinical, laboratory, and case management data utilized for case investigation and surveillance purposes. Local Boards of Health have access to MAVEN, generally through the community’s Public Health Nurse.

Across the state there are delays in testing information being reported to MAVEN. Some facilities, such as Jewish LifeCare, have retained private testing firms to provide increased testing. This is resulting in the facility receiving positive case information sooner than it is being updated in MAVEN.

While the numbers are interesting, it doesn’t change what is needed from the public at this time. Stay home, and if you do need to leave your house, practice social distancing. It is vitally important for residents to stop congregating outside, stop group play and team sports at parks and to take critical public safety messages seriously.

If you have a concern, are concerned about a neighbor, or need additional information related to COVID-19 please email LEMD@longmeadow.org or visit www.longmeadow.org/coronavirus.