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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has informed the Belmont Health Department of its first presumptive positive COVID-19 case in a Belmont resident. This resident attended the Biogen conference in Boston held at the end of February. This resident is the parent of Belmont Public School students who attend the Chenery Middle School and Belmont High School.

The presumptive positive Belmont individual and their family are complying with the self-quarantine protocol provided by MDPH. The students and other family members have been out of school and work since last week as a preventative measure to reduce the chance of community spread. The students, and other members of the family, do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

The presumptive positive individual is in good spirits and reports mild symptoms. This individual is following MDPH protocol and is isolating at home and is staying away from members of their family. To be clear this individual and their children are on in home quarantine for the next 14-days.

The Belmont Public Schools (BPS) Facilities Department conducted cleaning and disinfecting at the schools that the children attend and the Belmont Public Library prior to opening today and have plans to systematically disinfect all other town buildings moving forward. BPS has strengthened cleaning protocols at all schools, with a focus on high touch points. BPS is closely monitoring hand towel and soap dispensers to ensure regular refill and has ordered a large supply of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to be distributed to all schools.

There are 41 presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in Middlesex County as of 3/10/20. Statewide 70 out of 91 presumptive positive cases are linked to a recent Biogen event.

Local health departments, including the Belmont Health Department, conduct contact investigations of confirmed and presumptive positive COVID-19 cases, in collaboration with MDPH. This helps to prevent further spread by having contacts of cases self-quarantine.

There are updated recommendations for people at higher risk — older adults and people who have chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease. The US Centers Disease Control (CDC) has suggestions for extra precautions to take to avoid getting sick. More information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>



Hearing news of cases of COVID-19 may be unsettling for some in our community. Town staff, including those in the Belmont Health Department, Town Administration, Emergency Management, the Belmont Public Schools and many other town departments are working hard to answer questions, allay fears and prepare for what continues to be an evolving public health concern. Resources, information and updates will be posted here: <https://www.belmont-ma.gov/health-department> .

