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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has informed the Belmont Health Department of its second and third “presumptive positive” * COVID-19 cases in Belmont residents. These residents are linked to the Biogen conference held in Boston at the end of February. Belmont now has a total of three presumptive positive cases as confirmed by MDPH.

These new presumptive positive Belmont individuals and their families are complying with the self-quarantine protocol provided by MDPH. These individuals are following MDPH protocol and are isolating at home and are staying away from members of their family. Other members of the family, do not have symptoms of COVID-19. To be clear these individuals and their children are on in-home quarantine for the next 14-days.

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 49 presumptive and confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Middlesex County as of 3/12/20. Statewide 82 out of 108 positive cases are linked to a recent Biogen event.

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, updates and a local case count will be posted here: <https://www.belmont-ma.gov/home/urgent-alerts/covid-19-information-for-the-town-of-belmont-find-all-updates-here>.

***Note:**

MDPH defines “Presumptive Positive” as a person that has tested positive by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory, while awaiting specimens sent to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for final verification.

