

**GUIDANCE TO LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH
FROM MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE 911 DEPARTMENT REGARDING
THE SHARING OF CRITICAL INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS**

On March 19, 2020, pursuant to the authority granted by G. L. c. 17, § 2A and with the approval of the Governor and the Public Health Council, and in order to ensure effective and continued operation of public health and safety services during the state of emergency based on the assessment of need by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and local first responders, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued an Order of the Commissioner regarding the sharing of critical information with first responders. In recognizing the need to quickly and efficiently respond to emergencies, protect the health and safety of first responders and citizens, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the State 911 Department hereby jointly issue this guidance to all local boards of health.

Local boards of health shall disclose to the (Receiving Entity) the addresses of persons living in their jurisdiction who the local board of health has been informed have tested positive for COVID-19. **The disclosure of information shall be limited to the address**, and shall not include any other identifying information, including name.

The “Receiving Entity” is described in the Order as “the official with the responsibility for administering the response to emergency calls in their jurisdiction.” To avoid any confusion, we would like to make it clear that the **local boards of health should disclose the address to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) of jurisdiction. The PSAP of jurisdiction for each city or town is the appropriate Receiving Entity.**

Any information disclosed pursuant to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Order shall only be used as necessary for responding to emergency calls and not for any other purpose. The Receiving Entity shall ensure that the information is maintained confidentially, and is made available only to those who need to know in order to operate emergency response services.

Information disclosed pursuant to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Order may not be retained by the Receiving Entity beyond the termination of the state of emergency.

All applicable statute, regulations and guidance not inconsistent with the Order remain in effect.