

**Friday, Oct. 31, 2025**

**Statement from Newton Health and Human Services Commissioner Shin-Yi Lao**

The Newton Health and Human Services Department closed Star Market at 33 Austin Street in Newtonville on Tuesday, Oct. 28 after being notified by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection that demolition work in a stockroom, an area not accessible to the public, may have resulted in the release of asbestos into the building.

On Friday morning, Oct. 31, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection informed the Newton Health and Human Services Department of the following:

- The area of the stockroom where asbestos containing material was exposed has been completely sealed and contained.
- Air samples taken at multiple locations in the store are well below clearance levels for asbestos.
- Surface samples taken at multiple locations in the store are non-detect for asbestos.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is continuing to work with Star Market to undertake the appropriate abatement measures in the stockroom. The work will take place in a contained area so there is no risk to the public.

As of 10:00 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, the Newton Health and Human Services Department has allowed Star Market to reopen. We want to extend a thank you to our partners at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and to acknowledge the quick action and thorough response of Star Market.

Customers and employees who were in Star Market who have questions may contact the Newton Health and Human Services Department at (617) 796-1420, or email questions to [starmarketquestions@newtonma.gov](mailto:starmarketquestions@newtonma.gov).

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