

## **MOST RECENT COVID-19 UPDATES FROM THE TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN**

### **February 12, 2021 –Barnstable County COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Orleans**

Starting at 12:00 noon on Friday, February 12th, eligible people can schedule online appointments at [www.maimmunizations.org](http://www.maimmunizations.org) for an upcoming Barnstable County COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Orleans on Wednesday, February 17th. The clinic will run from 9:00am until 4:00pm at the Orleans Department of Public Works. There are 800 doses available.

Registration Tip: On [www.maimmunizations.org](http://www.maimmunizations.org), manually scroll through the sites until you see this clinic listed. We advise that you do not enter the date or any other parameters in the search.

This clinic is available for those who live or work on Cape Cod and meet the criteria for Phase One or who are 75 years or older. Caregivers who accompany someone age 75 or older registered for this clinic may also register and receive their own vaccination on the same day.

### **State Allows Vaccinations for Caregivers and Companions Who Accompany People 75 and Older to Mass Vaccination Sites**

Effective today, an individual who accompanies a person 75 years or older to a mass vaccination site will also be eligible to receive a vaccine. Here are the requirements: both the person 75 and older as well as their companion must book an appointment for the same day and they need to arrive together. The appointments need to be booked at mass vaccination sites. The mass vaccination sites are Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, and Eastfield Mall in Springfield. To book at appointment, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine> or seniors 75 and over who have trouble using the website may call 2-1-1 for help with scheduling.

### **Pharmacies in Commonwealth to Get Additional COVID-19 Vaccines**

Governor Baker announced that pharmacies across the Commonwealth will add 50,000 appointments for COVID-19 vaccines over the course of this week. All appointments need to be scheduled through the state online site found at <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>.

### **Massachusetts Software Developer Builds Website to Simplify Scheduling COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments in the Commonwealth**

Software developer Olivia Adams built a website that makes it easier to find which vaccination sites have open appointments. It's a private website, but it's far easier to navigate than the state's resource. If you see an opening on Ms. Adams' "MA Covid Vaccine Appointments" website, you can click through to register at the vaccination site. Check it out [here](#).

### **Season of Change - Coping During Covid - A Virtual Town Hall Event**

February 24, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm

The event will focus on understanding the psychological impact of the challenges faced during this time and will offer helpful coping and self-care practices. The event will also provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of local health and human service experts. [Register here to attend](#).

## **State allows businesses to increase capacity to 40%, Indoor gathering limits stay at 10 people**

As of Monday, February 8th, businesses can operate at 40% capacity. This is an increase from an existing order limiting capacity to 25% for many businesses. Restaurants and close contact personal services will also be allowed to operate at a 40% capacity limit. Additionally, the Baker Administration announced that current restrictions limiting gathering sizes to 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors remain in place.

## **Binax Antigen COVID-19 testing program at Outer Cape Health Services is extended indefinitely**

Asymptomatic testing will continue for the Lower and Outer Cape communities at OCHS' Provincetown, Wellfleet, and Harwich clinics. Testing will be done by appointment only. **Please call (508) 905-2888 to schedule an appointment.**

## **February 8, 2021 – Outer Cape COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

Today Barnstable County announced that an Outer Cape COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic will be held on Friday, February 12th from 10am until 2pm. The clinic location is at Little Creek Parking Lot at the Cape Cod National Seashore in Eastham.

Everyone in Phase 1 and those 75 years and older in Phase 2 are [eligible](#) for the vaccine. Please go to the state's online vaccine location map [mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap) to book your appointment.

Appointments are open, but we need to emphasize that there are approximately 300 doses available for this regional clinic. We want to apologize that due to the small number of doses, many who are eligible for the vaccine will not get an appointment. However, please know this is only the first of many opportunities for clinics on the Outer Cape and we ask for your patience during this frustrating time.

Only people with appointments will receive the vaccine. Anyone who does not have an appointment will be turned away.

**PLEASE NOTE: All Barnstable County COVID-19 Clinics should be visible on the state's map.** Unfortunately, there has been an unexpected delay in Barnstable clinics showing on the state's map. Until this is resolved, you can also find and schedule Barnstable County COVID-19 vaccine appointments directly at <http://www.maimmunizations.org> while available.

## **January 27, 2021 - Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – People with Certain Medical Conditions (Comorbidities)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

## **When Can I Get a COVID-19 Vaccine in MA? – Phase 2 Priority Group Update**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine>

## **Barnstable County Clarifies COVID-19 Vaccination Process**

Barnstable County Government seeks to clarify that although residents seventy-five years and older will be the next group eligible (Phase 2) to receive a COVID-19 vaccination beginning Monday, February 1, most will not find an available appointment immediately on Cape Cod. The reasons for the delay in the timeline are twofold: we are still in the process of vaccinating the initial eligible groups in Phase 1, and we do not yet have an adequate supply of the vaccine.

Barnstable County and all 15 local boards of health are committed to vaccinating our residents as soon as we receive the vaccine. Our policy is to register eligible candidates when we have their dose in-hand. Therefore, we will not immediately be making appointments for our residents ages 75 and up. When that time comes within the first few weeks of February, residents can search locations and register for their initial dose of vaccine on <https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap>

The number of vaccinations we have for our eligible residents depends on several variables, including the availability of doses from the federal government and how quickly the state distributes that vaccine across Massachusetts. There are multiple vaccination sites planned for Phase 2 residents to receive the vaccine on Cape Cod, including five regional sites coordinated by Barnstable County. These are anticipated to be operational in the first or second week of February. Pharmacies and grocery stores have partnered with the Commonwealth and will begin distributing Phase 2 vaccine as well. These sites' ability to announce clinics or schedule appointments depends on whether the vaccine is in hand. If the vaccine has not yet been received or replenished, providers are not able to offer appointments.

It is important to note that we are still in the process of addressing the remainder of our Phase 1 eligible workers, which includes emergency responders, COVID-facing healthcare workers, workers and residents in congregate care settings, and non-COVID-facing healthcare workers.

The vaccines we were given for this first group were rapidly administered during clinics held at the Orleans DPW. Some eligible workers were unable to get their vaccines due to a lack of supply that we are still trying to replenish. We will be holding additional Phase I clinics as soon as we have the vaccine to do so.

“We urge Cape Codders to do three things – to pay attention to where they fit into the phases and sub-phases, expect that there be delays in availability of appointments and operating clinics due to shortages in the vaccine, and to be patient,” Director of Barnstable County Health and Environment Sean O’Brien said. “We will make every effort to keep you informed.”

A common question among Phase 2 residents on Cape Cod is where they can get on a waitlist for the vaccine.

“By the end of Tuesday, the Barnstable County COVID-19 Helpline received a total of 7,500 phone calls since its inception on January 19, and those were largely from senior residents under the impression that they could register for a vaccine on Cape Cod right away,” said Bethany Traverse, Health Communications Project Specialist. “We want residents to know that our clinics have been planned and staff is ready to assist our most vulnerable residents – those 75 and older – in getting their much-needed vaccine. However, because vaccine allocation is so limited, and because Barnstable County does not know when or how many vaccines will be received, we cannot register anyone yet. We are also unable to keep a waitlist. We assure you, as soon as we have the vaccine in hand, we’ll let our eligible residents know by every means possible”.

A map displaying locations where a resident can get vaccinations is accessible at <https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap> and linked at [www.barnstablecountyhealth.org](http://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org). The map will be updated frequently, with more sites coming online in our region. So far, visitors to these webpages will see that several CVS, Walgreens, and Stop & Shop locations, as well as the Orleans DPW site (designated for Phase 1 eligible candidates only), have been added with links to register. Keep in mind that if a given site does not have the vaccine, registration will not be open.

Barnstable County would also like to remind residents across Cape Cod that as appointments become available for our senior citizens, help those who need it navigate the online vaccine registration process. If a senior in your life does not use the Internet, such as a parent, grandparent, neighbor, or friend, please reach out to assist them. When registration is open for our County clinics, our COVID-19 Helpline staff will be available at (774) 330-3001 to help anyone who needs it.

As vaccine supply becomes steadier and we embark on vaccinating those most vulnerable to this virus in Phase 2, please also remember to continue taking precautions to inhibit community spread.

Visit [www.barnstablecountyhealth.org](http://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org) for regular updates.

### **January 25, 2021 - President Biden's COVID-19 Executive Actions**

Last week, President Biden signed several executive orders related to containing the COVID-19 pandemic. These include:

1. [COVID-19 Response Office & Coordinator](#): establishes the COVID-19 Response office and creates the position of Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response, charged with gearing up the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. [Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel](#): requires mask wearing in or on all airports, commercial airplanes, trains, public maritime vessels (including ferries), intercity bus services, and all forms of public transportation. Travelers seeking to enter the U.S. from a foreign country will be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test prior to entry, and may be required to comply with applicable CDC guidelines, including recommended self-quarantine or isolation.
3. [Improving and Expanding Access to Care and Treatments for COVID-19](#): requires continued research into appropriate and effective treatments for COVID-19, establishes a new drug discovery and development program, and expands on programs designed to support patients recovering from COVID-19.
4. [Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19](#): directs the COVID-19 response office and all federal agencies to improve federal data collection and sharing with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. [Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain](#): calls for an immediate review of COVID-19 response supply and the resources necessary to produce and distribute tests and vaccines at scale. Heads of federal agencies are directed to take appropriate action using all available legal authorities, including the **Defense Production Act**, to fill shortfalls identified in pandemic response supplies.
6. [Ensuring an Equitable Pandemic Response and Recovery](#): establishes a COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force under HHS charged with developing recommendations to identify and eliminate health and social inequities that result in disproportionately higher rates of exposure, illness, and death from COVID-19.
7. [Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers](#): directs HHS to collect data on school reopenings and the spread of

COVID-19, and provide support and guidance to help create the conditions for safe, in-person learning as quickly as possible.

8. [Protecting Worker Health and Safety](#): directs OSHA to issue new guidance for employers on workplace safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, and increased enforcement of existing rules to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.
9. [Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board & Ensuring Sustainable Public Health Workforce](#): creates a COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board charged with coordinating federal efforts to promote COVID-19 diagnostic, screening, and surveillance testing, and make recommendations with regard to prioritizing assistance to state and local governments with regard to expanding testing and reducing disparities in access to testing.

### [Massachusetts Phase 1 Vaccination Update](#)

All phase 1 groups are now eligible for vaccination, which opens vaccination to home-based health care workers and “non-COVID-facing” health care workers. Eligible recipients can sign up for an appointment at a vaccination site [here](#). Please be advised that eligible individuals must be prepared to bring or sign a [self-attestation of eligibility form](#) and bring an employee ID, government-issued ID, or recent pay stub to show eligibility.

The most recent vaccination update report is available [here](#). As a reminder, questions with regard to vaccine eligibility can be sent to [COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov). Any retired nurses or retired medical professionals interested in volunteering to administer vaccines or help in other capacities can [sign up here](#), or through the Medical Reserve Corps at [www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/](http://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org/).

### **January 19, 2021 – County Vaccine Helpline - COVID-19 Helpline (774) 330-3001**

The Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment announced a regionwide helpline to respond to COVID-19 related questions. Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers have been trained to answer questions about COVID-19, such as how to get a COVID-19 test or how to help someone navigate the three-phased approach to vaccination.

The MRC helpline team can also walk residents through more complex questions, directing them to the right resources in their local communities and in other state government departments. Volunteers cannot provide individual clinical advice or a diagnosis through the helpline. If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 and are symptomatic, call your health care provider.

The helpline will be taking calls beginning next Tuesday, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-774-330-3001.

Barnstable County wants to ensure residents that a coordinated response is taking place in our region. We remain committed to encouraging all citizens to wear a mask, maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet, and wash hands for at least 20 seconds. For more information, COVID-19 case counts, testing, and vaccine information visit <http://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org> or <http://www.mass.gov>

### **January 11, 2021 - [Massachusetts Small Business Grant Program](#)**

The Baker Administration announced a new sector-specific Small Business Relief Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Program for sectors most impacted by COVID-19. Industries that will be given preference include restaurants and bars, indoor recreation, gyms and fitness centers, event-support companies such as photographers, and personal services such as hair salons and barbershops. Grants of up to \$75,000, or not more than three months' operating expenses, are available to be used on payroll and employee benefit costs, mortgage and rent costs, utilities, and more. Applications are due Friday, January 15, 2021. Information is available at [www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org](http://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org).

### **[Additional \\$300M for Fisheries Disaster Relief](#)**

Senators Markey and Warren and Congressmen Keating and Moulton praised the inclusion of \$300M in national fisheries disaster assistance as part of the \$900B coronavirus relief legislation that passed at the end of the year. Massachusetts was previously allocated \$28M in fisheries assistance in the CARES Act. Read the lawmakers' full statement [here](#).

**The Commonwealth's vaccination plan is available [here](#).**

**January 7, 2021 – Governor Extends Reduced Capacity and Gathering Restrictions through at least January 24.** Industry restrictions for capacity limits and reduced gathering limits went into effect on Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and will now be extended for at least two more weeks to January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Read a summary of the restrictions [here](#). Read the emergency order [here](#).

### **INDUSTRY RESTRICTIONS & GATHERING LIMITS**

Capacity Limits: Under the current restrictions that are being extended today, most industries in Massachusetts remain subject to a 25% capacity limit:

- Restaurants (based on permitted seating capacity)
- Close Contact Personal Services
- Theaters and Performance Venues
- Office Spaces
- Places of Worship
- Retail Businesses
- Libraries
- Lodging (for common areas)
- Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Museums, Cultural Facilities and Guided Tours
- Workers and staff will not count towards the occupancy count for restaurants, places of worship, close contact personal services, and retail businesses.

All other rules and restrictions in each sector-specific guidance will continue to remain in effect.

Gatherings Limit: The current gathering limits in place since December 26 are also being extended. Indoor gatherings will remain limited to 10 people. Outdoor gatherings will remain limited to 25 people outside. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces.

**January 7, 2021 – Sector Specific Relief Grant Programs for Businesses**



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has made an additional \$668 million available to support businesses through new and existing programs. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) will target a portion of these funds to sectors experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds were appropriated through the Commonwealth's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) as well as the CARES Act of 2020.

This business relief fund targets the hardest hit small businesses that have an exceptional need of cash relief. Though many businesses have been negatively affected by the pandemic, not all needs are equal. To ensure that these limited funds get to the most severely impacted businesses, you **SHOULD NOT APPLY** if you:

- are not showing an operating loss due to the coronavirus pandemic
- have access to other sources of relief
- have been able to continue to operate without significant financial distress
- have adequate available reserves

Additionally, larger companies that are better positioned to endure this economic downturn and COVID-19 related restrictions should not apply.

An excessive number of applications submitted by businesses with lesser need will delay the awarding of grants to businesses facing extraordinary circumstances. An application review for a company without a truly exceptional need delays assistance for a business at risk of permanent closure. [Program Description and Application](#).

### **December 31, 2020 - Outer Cape Health Services is Open for Asymptomatic Testing!**

Asymptomatic testing is available for the Lower and Outer Cape communities at Outer Cape Health Services' Provincetown, Wellfleet, and Harwich clinics. Testing will be done by appointment only. **Please call (508) 905-2888 to schedule an appointment.**

### **Barnstable County has a New Phone Number for COVID-19 Testing Appointments**

There is a new phone number to schedule an appointment for testing services at the Cape Cod Melody Tent in Hyannis and the Barnstable County Fairgrounds in Falmouth. **The new number is (508) 434-7103.** Testing is by appointment only. Anyone who arrives without an appointment will be turned away.

**Please note:** Although travel is not recommended at this time, tests are \$110 for those who require a test to travel. Insurance will be accepted for symptomatic individuals with a doctor's order.

Additionally, the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment has developed two websites answering questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine. For general FAQs on the vaccine, click [here](#). For information on when to get vaccinated, click [here](#).

### **If you have traveled during the holidays, here is what you need to know**

Although travel is not advised, people who have traveled out of state during the holidays need to comply with Massachusetts travel order. Here are the requirements: Quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative PCR COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts. If your COVID-19 test result has not been received prior to arrival, visitors, and residents must quarantine until they receive a negative test result.

## **Feeling low? Need rental assistance? The Provincetown Resource guide can offer services to help!**

The Town of Provincetown, along with social service agencies and faith-based organizations created a [COVID-19 resource guide](#) to help anyone in Provincetown who might need help during the pandemic. This comprehensive guide offers information on how to access food programs, financial assistance, unemployment benefits, emergency services, resources to help manage stress and anxiety, small business assistance, legal and work support, substance use resources, family and caregiver support.

## **December 24, 2020 - Business Relief Package**

The Governor launched a \$668 million program to provide financial assistance to Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program in part relies on the pending federal COVID-19 relief bill recently passed by Congress. Regardless of the developments at the federal level, the Baker-Polito Administration will start releasing millions in new funding to restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses throughout the Commonwealth as soon as next week.

Earlier this week, the Administration announced nearly \$49 million in grants through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) COVID-19 Small Business Program to support over 1,158 small businesses. More than 10,000 applicants had sought relief in this grant round.

Additional grants will be made available to eligible small businesses through MGCC. The Small Business Grant Program was established in the fall, and currently has a pool of eligible applicants awaiting funding. This additional funding will allow the Administration to award more of those pending applicants. Eligible businesses that already applied to the program, but were not funded due to limited funds available, will be prioritized for funding first and do not need to reapply.

The funds will also be used to stand up an additional grant program at MGCC. This program will target the industries most hard-hit during the pandemic.

Eligible industries for the new program include:

- Restaurants, bars, caterers
- Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments
- Gyms and fitness centers
- Event-support professionals (photographers, videographers, etc.)
- Personal services
- Retail

The new business relief program would offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for employee wage and benefits costs, space-related costs, and debt service obligations.

The online application portal for the new program will open on Thursday, December 31, and will close on Friday, January 15. Awards are expected to be announced in early February.



More details on how to apply and eligibility requirements are available at [www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org](http://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org).

### **December 24, 2020 - Support for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 Recession**

The Governor announced that nearly \$49 million in grants to small businesses will be awarded through the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation. In October, the \$50.8 million grant program was announced as a key component of *Partnerships for Recovery*, the Administration's [comprehensive plan](#) to get people back to work, support small businesses, foster innovation, revitalize downtowns, and ensure housing stability.

Of the businesses being notified of their successful applications, each meets the preferred criteria of being owned by women, minorities, veterans, individuals with disabilities, or that identify as LGBTQ. Additionally, every completed application received from a qualified minority-owned business that has not been able to receive prior aid from federal, state, or local programs established to support businesses during the pandemic will be receiving relief.

To increase applications from underrepresented groups, MGCC worked with a statewide network of local non-profits, small business technical assistance providers, and other organizations that support minority enterprises, including BECMA, Amplify LatinX, the Business Equity Initiative, Massachusetts Association of CDCs (MACDC), LISC and the statewide Coalition for an Equitable Economy, to reach businesses and entrepreneurs that would match the program's priorities.

The Small Business Grant Program received over 10,000 applications seeking funds totaling over \$500 million. Effective today, successful applicants will be notified that they have been awarded grants with further instructions on how to complete the process to receive funds. Nearly \$49 million will be granted to small businesses, with the remaining funding having been used to encourage applications from targeted communities and to prevent fraudulent applications.

The grant program's priorities, set forth in legislation, resulted in 1,158 small businesses being designated for an award. Among the successful applicants:

- 100 percent of all grantees are minority-, veteran-, LGBTQ-, or individuals with disabilities-owned businesses;
- 100 percent of qualified applications submitted by minority-women, minority-male, veteran-, LGBTQ-, and individuals with disabilities-owned businesses that have not received prior aid will be receiving funding;
- 95 percent of award recipients are minority-owned businesses; and
- 76 percent of award recipients are women-owned businesses.

Governor Baker recently [signed the FY21 budget](#), including an additional \$17.5 million for the Small Business Grant Program. This funding will be distributed using the same criteria, and MGCC will review applications already submitted. Small businesses that did not receive awards in the first round do not need to reapply, and no new applications will be accepted. The FY21 budget also includes \$17.5 million for community development financial institutions (CDFI) grants and loans, \$5 million for small business technical assistance, and \$3.9 million

for technical assistance and grants, including for small business online and digital tools. Additionally, the Baker- Polito Administration recently filed a \$107.4 million [supplemental budget bill](#) for Fiscal Year 2021. This bill proposes \$49.4 million to fully fund the economic recovery and small business relief plan included in the Administration's revised FY21 budget proposal and support the unique needs of small and minority- and women-owned businesses across the Commonwealth.

Finally, a comprehensive economic development bill currently pending before the Legislature includes additional substantial investments in small businesses. Beyond support for small businesses, *Partnerships for Recovery* includes substantial funding across both existing and new initiatives. In November, the 2020 Round of the [MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Program](#) was announced, investing nearly \$68 million in 36 projects to support housing, economic development and road safety projects across the Commonwealth. Community foundations received [\\$10 million for COVID-19 Relief](#), funds that can be used for vital services such as food security, housing and utilities support, emergency childcare and transportation. Last week, the first grants from the [Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Program](#) were awarded, directing \$1.7 million to cities and towns to conceive, design, and implement tactical changes to curbs, streets, and parking areas in support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce. In the coming weeks, the Administration will be announcing grants to support [cultural facilities](#) such as museums, new funding to support internet connectivity, and [local rapid recovery planning](#) support for communities.

### **December 22, 2020 – Announcement of Temporary Revisions to COVID-19 Measures**

Governor Baker announced a temporary Executive Order and revised COVID-19 measures to reduce the spread of the virus in Massachusetts.

The temporary Executive Order will outline the following measures that will **take effect at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and will continue until Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**, with a possibility of an extension of another week based upon available data.

This pause will reduce allowable occupancy from current capacity levels of 40% to 25% in multiple sectors.

- Notably, this capacity limit will now apply to restaurants. Capacity will be set at 25% of pre-COVID seating capacity and distancing between tables and other requirements will remain in place. Indoor and Outdoor seating capacity must be calculated separately (rather than combining them).
- Small spaces (such as personal services) and other spaces without clear occupancy standards may use 5 people / 1000 square feet as an alternative to the 25% occupancy
- The 25% limit will not apply to manufacturing, laboratories, drive in movie theaters, or construction
- Employees/staff are exempted from the capacity count
- Limits at indoor event venues are being reduced to 10 people.
- Limits at outdoor event venues are being reduced to 25 people.
- Current limits at private residences remain the same (10 indoors and 25 outdoors)

- Limits at movie theaters will be reduced to 25% (no more than 50 people per theater)
- Limits outdoor performance venues will remain 25% (with the max number reduced to 25 from 50).
- Office spaces will be required to reduce capacity to 25%, but there will continue to be allowances for offices with “critical services”, such as public safety, public health, and other critical services. There is no approval required for these exemptions.
- K-12 schools continue to be exempted from these capacity limits and will need to follow DESE standards and guidelines.

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Current Capacity Limit</b>	<b>New Limit</b>
Construction	None	None
Drive-In Movie Theaters	None	None
Laboratories	None	None
Manufacturing	None	None
Restaurants	None	25% of seating capacity
Close Contact Personal Services	None	25%
Indoor and Outdoor Events	25 indoor / 50 outdoor	10 indoor / 25 outdoor
Theaters and Performance Venues	Movie theaters – 40%, max 50 ppl Indoor perf venues – Closed Outdoor perf venues – 25%, max 50 ppl	Movie theaters – 25%, max 50 ppl Indoor perf venues – Closed Outdoor perf venues – 25%, max 25 ppl
Office Spaces	40%	25%
Places of Worship	40%	25%
Retail Businesses	40%	25%
Driving and Flight Schools	40%	25%
Golf Facilities	40%	25%
Libraries	40%	25%
Operators of Lodgings	40%	25%
Arcades & Other Indoor & Outdoor Recreation Businesses	40%	25%
Fitness Centers and Health Clubs	40%	25%
Museums / Cultural & Historical Facilities / Guided Tours	40%	25%
Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed	40%	25%

**December 11, 2020 – Cape Testing Initiative**

Barnstable County, in collaboration with the Cape and Islands Legislative Delegation, Cape Cod Health Care, local fire/EMS, community health centers and municipal leadership, is proud

to announce the upcoming launch of two regional COVID-19 testing sites. In addition to taking insurance for participants who have an order from their physician, testing at these sites will be offered at low cost to asymptomatic participants and those who are unable to use insurance. If an individual or family does not have insurance or the financial means to provide payment, they will still receive a test. [More Information](#)

### December 11, 2020 – Massachusetts Vaccine Allocation and Distribution Plan Info

Click here to view the administration’s vaccine website: [www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine).



### December 11, 2020 – FIND FOOD HELP

During this crisis, many individuals and families find themselves suddenly needing help getting food. Don't be afraid to ask for help and find out what programs might be available to you. **If you need food right away, please call the CONFIDENTIAL and ANONYMOUS Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at 800-645-8333 for information on how to find food near you.** <https://www.mass.gov/decision-tree/find-food-assistance>

**December 8, 2020** - [Baker-Polito Administration Announces Statewide Rollback to Phase Three, Step One, Additional Restrictions Effective December 13<sup>th</sup>](#)

**December 7, 2020- Visit [www.mass.gov/gettested](http://www.mass.gov/gettested) for more information and to find a testing site near you.**

In addition to STS sites, Massachusetts residents who are a close contact or who have COVID-19 symptoms can obtain a test, covered by their insurance, at more than [350 testing sites](#) across the Commonwealth, with no co-pay. Residents can also order [at-home test kits](#) like Pixel, which are covered by insurance and available for uninsured individuals as well. These tests are easy-to-use, arrive via overnight shipping, and currently have an average turnaround time of 1-2 days according to LabCorp.

### **December 7, 2020 – Updated Quarantine Information and Return-to-work Guidance**

Massachusetts has aligned its quarantine recommendations with those issued last week by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>), and they go into effect today. The new guidance (attached) is based on recent CDC data showing that shortened quarantine periods result in only a small chance that someone may develop COVID-19 after leaving quarantine. The small risk that someone may develop COVID-19 after a shortened strict quarantine period is outweighed by the expected benefit of reduced transmission from the expected increased cooperation with adherence to the quarantine, according to the CDC.

- The majority of COVID-19 cases have incubation periods fewer than 10 days, although the possible incubation period is still 14 days. During the quarantine period, people must not have visitors in their homes and they cannot have contact with other people who live in their homes.
- The 14-day quarantine recommendation remains in place for any person experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms during the quarantine period, even if they have a negative test, and for those unwilling or unable to conduct active self-monitoring of symptoms.
- Under the new guidance, people who have no symptoms and have either a negative PCR **or** antigen test taken on Day 5 or later, can be released on Day 8 (following 7 days of quarantine).
- If the person does not have a test and does not have symptoms, they may be allowed to leave quarantine on Day 11 (following 10 days of quarantine).
- Under either option, the individual must conduct active monitoring of their symptoms through Day 14 and get tested and isolate if they develop any sign of disease.
- The guidance for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 has not changed, which means they should stay in self-isolation for 10 days. They can resume public activities after the 10 days as long as they have gone for 24 hours without a fever and without taking fever-reducing medications like Tylenol and have experienced improvement in other symptoms, such as a cough that has gotten much better.

The Department of Public Health is also updating quarantine guidelines in return to work guidance, effective today. The guidance clarifies that certain sectors may continue to work during their quarantine period to preserve critical societal functions. This is only allowed if the worker remains asymptomatic. These sectors include healthcare workers, first responders, and critical infrastructure workers, as defined by CDC. Please see the guidance attached or online at [www.mass.gov/quarantine](http://www.mass.gov/quarantine)

### **December 1, 2020 - Executive Orders + Stay at Home Advisory one-pagers/flyers**

- Available in multiple languages at the links below:

- [Public gathering guidance](#)
- [Private gathering guidance](#)
- [Face Mask order](#)
- [Stay-at-home Advisory](#)
- [Early business closure & alcohol guidance](#)

### **December 1, 2020 - Launch of “Get Back Mass” Public Awareness Effort:**

On Monday, the Baker-Polito Administration launched a new public awareness effort to encourage residents to continue to stay safe and remain vigilant. The statewide campaign “Get Back Mass” highlights the critical steps everyone should take – wearing a mask and practicing good hygiene, keeping a safe distance, and getting tested – to protect themselves and their loved ones. The multilingual campaign will run on several platforms including television and digital ads.

The campaign features residents from across the Commonwealth who, in their own words, draw the connection between taking precautions so that they can “get back” to the activities, people, and experiences they enjoy – like attending live sporting events or concerts, throwing their child a birthday party, going out dancing with friends, or going on a “real” date. The campaign underscores the importance of taking precautions like wearing a mask so the Commonwealth can slow the spread of the virus and keep our communities safe while COVID-19 remains with us.

The Get Back Mass campaign launched with social media messages that highlight safety tips, digital animated videos in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese (simplified and traditional) and Vietnamese, and information posters that will be displayed in convenience stores. Television advertisements in English and Spanish will run on broadcast and digital channels, continuing through February. All campaign components lead to a landing page, [mass.gov/GetBack](https://mass.gov/GetBack), which highlights the three key behaviors it takes to **#GetBackMass**:

- **Wear a mask.** Wear a mask or face covering in public to slow the spread of COVID-19. [Learn about how and when to wear one.](#)
- **Keep your distance.** No matter what, six feet or more is best. [Learn about ways to lower your risk when you are around others.](#)
- **Get tested.** [Find out when and where to get a COVID-19 test.](#)

The Get Back Mass campaign is the latest in a series of public awareness efforts the Commonwealth has taken to curb the spread of COVID-19, including the [September launch](#) of [mass.gov/stopCOVID19](https://mass.gov/stopCOVID19) following the Administration’s establishment of the COVID-19 Enforcement and Intervention Team (CEIT), awareness for the “[Stop the Spread](#)” testing initiative, and [#MaskUpMA](#), a continuous campaign that reminds residents to wear face coverings to stop COVID-19 spread.

### **November 18, 2020 – QUARANTINE GUIDANCE**



DPH has issued [updated quarantine guidance](#) that takes effect today:  
(Document download – <https://www.mass.gov/media/2208931/download>)

While the initial guidance to quarantine for 14 days after exposure still stands, this additional guidance will allow those who have been exposed to COVID to test out of quarantine after 10 days if they meet ALL of the following parameters:

- They have not had, and do not have, any symptoms of COVID;
- If they are tested on day 8 of their quarantine period or later using a molecular diagnostic test, a PCR test, and receive a negative test result; and
- They must monitor themselves for symptoms for the full 14 days. Any individual that develops symptoms should contact their local health care provider and be re-tested.

### **November 9, 2020 – COVID-19 SECTOR SAFETY STANDARDS**

- [Indoor and Outdoor Events Standards](#)
- [Restaurant Standards](#)
- [Retail Business Standards](#)
- [Close Contact Personal Services Standards](#)
- [Arcades and Other Indoor and Outdoor Game and Recreation Businesses Standards](#)
- [Theaters and Performance Venues Standards](#)
- [Fitness Centers and Health Clubs Standards](#)
- [Museums and Cultural and Historical Facilities and Guided Tours Standards](#)

### **November 1, 2020 – UPDATED GUIDANCE**

[Order Requiring Early Closing for Certain Businesses and Activities, Limiting Hours for Alcohol and Adult Use Cannabis Sales, and Modifying Chapter 138 License Renewal Requirements – Order No. 53.](#)

[Revised Order Further Regulating Gatherings in the Commonwealth – Order No. 54](#)

[Revised Face Coverings – Order No. 55](#)

### **November 1, 2020 - Department of Labor Standards**

The following sector-specific safety standards have been updated or changed.

- [Arcades And Other Indoor And Outdoor Game And Recreation](#)
- [Close Contact](#)
- [Museum](#)
- [Places of Worship](#)
- [Retail Businesses](#)
- [Theater and Performance Venues](#)

Click [here](#) to review the all sector-specific safety standards.

### **November 1, 2020 - Small Business Grant Opportunities**

<https://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org/covid-19-response/covid-19-grants-massachusetts-small-businesses>

This micro business grant program is provided with funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). <https://www.trimicroloans.org/micro-e-loan-info>

### **Community Compact Connector: Small Business Grants are now open!**

COVID-19 Small Business Grants: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has made \$50.8 million in grants available to support small businesses, microenterprises, and their employees, families and communities. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) will be administering these funds to businesses experiencing economic hardship and a loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These funds were appropriated through the Commonwealth's Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) as well as the CARES Act of 2020 and are divided into two programs, Small Business Grants for 5 or fewer employees and Small Business Grants for 50 or fewer employees.

The application opens at 12:00PM on 10/22/2020 and will close at 12:00PM on 11/12/2020. For more information [click here](#).

To stay informed regarding both existing and upcoming grant opportunities, please bookmark the [Community Compact Connector website](#).

### **October 16, 2020 - Eviction Diversion Initiative Announced**

On Monday, the Administration announced a comprehensive set of resources, known as the Eviction Diversion Initiative, to support tenants and landlords during the financial challenges caused by the pandemic. The goal of this initiative is to keep tenants safely in their homes and to support the ongoing expenses of landlords once the Commonwealth's pause of evictions and foreclosures expires on Saturday, October 17th. This strategy was developed by a cross-agency team assembled by the Administration in coordination with the Massachusetts Trial Court to manage the end of the moratorium on October 17th and reflects input from a broad range of stakeholders.

The Administration is making a \$171 million total commitment this fiscal year, with \$112 million of new funding to support new and expanded housing stability programs during the remainder of the fiscal year, including:

- \$100 million commitment this fiscal year to expand the capacity of the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program to provide relief to renters and landlords impacted by COVID-19;
- \$48.7 million to HomeBASE and other rapid rehousing programs for when tenants are evicted and are at risk of homelessness;
- \$12.3 million to provide tenants and landlords with access to legal representation and related services prior to and during the eviction process, as well as community mediation to help tenants and landlords resolve cases outside of court;
- \$6.5 million for Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs), the "front door" for those facing a housing emergency; and
- \$3.8 million for the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP), to provide case management support and to act as a neutral party to help tenants and landlords come to agreement.

New investments will expand the capacity of the RAFT program and increase the maximum benefit available through RAFT from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per household, with a goal

of helping more families stabilize their housing for six months, or until the end of June if there are school-age children in the household, on their path to recovery. New funding will also expand capacity at the nine regional Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) to provide housing counseling and coordinate with community mediators, legal services, and caseworkers. Income eligible tenants and landlord representation and related services as they navigate the eviction process.

The Administration is also updating the RAFT program to improve turnaround time on applications, while maintaining program integrity, by:

- streamlining the application process for both the RAFT and Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) programs for low to moderate income households;
- verifying applicant eligibility with data collected through MassHealth, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and the Department of Revenue (DOR);
- referring applicants to MassHIRE Career Centers; and
- allowing landlords who own fewer than 20 units to apply directly for RAFT and ERMA, with consent from tenants.

With the goal of bringing landlords and tenants together to avoid an eviction, the Administration will invest in expanding access to mediation services. In coordination with the Trial Court, the Administration is working to launch a new Community Mediation program that will be available prior to a court filing, and supplement court-provided mediation that is generally available after a filing has been made. The Administration will also provide funding to the Trial Courts to support bringing back recall judges to help handle caseload once the moratorium ends and to add additional housing specialists to help mediate agreements. Additionally, the existing Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) will be expanded to serve a broader population of vulnerable households.

Massachusetts will also provide additional funding for post-eviction diversion, helping households to find new housing quickly and prevent a longer period of homelessness. HomeBASE, the Commonwealth's rapid rehousing benefit, and the Strategic Prevention Initiative (SPI) will be expanded and continue to offer financial assistance and stabilization case management services to families as they are in the process of securing stable housing. A new temporary emergency program will also provide funds to households for periods of up to 12 months to assist with moving expenses, rent, including first or last month's, or security deposit, while transitioning into a stable housing situation.

**October 9, 2020 –**

### **Public Messaging Resources for Higher-Risk Communities**

- [Public messaging graphics & guidelines for use in your community](#)

### **Infographics**

- [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
- [Social distancing: for youth for general audience](#)
- [Coping with stress or fear](#)
- [What to do if you are sick](#)
- [10 tips for at-home quarantine or self-monitoring](#)

### **October 7, 2020 - Transition to Step II of Phase III for Lower Risk Communities**

Effective Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, lower risk communities will be permitted to move into Step II of Phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan. All other communities will remain in Phase

III, Step I. Governor Charlie Baker also issued a revised gatherings order. Industry specific guidance and protocols for a range of Phase I, II, and III businesses will also be updated.

### **Phase III, Step II:**

On May 18, the Baker-Polito Administration released a four-phased plan to reopen the economy based on sustained improvements in public health data.

Last month, the Administration began releasing data on the average daily COVID cases per 100,000 residents, average percent positivity, and total case counts, for all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns.

Lower risk communities are defined as cities and towns that have not been a “red” community (average daily case rate of >8 per 100,000 over the past 14 days) in any of the last three weekly Department of Public Health (DPH) weekly reports.

Effective October 5, a limited number of sectors will be eligible to reopen, with restrictions, in Step II of Phase III for lower risk communities only:

- Indoor performance venues will be permitted to open with 50% capacity with a maximum of 250 people.
- Outdoor performance venue capacity will increase to 50% with a max of 250 people.
- For arcades and indoor and outdoor recreation businesses, additional Step II activities like trampolines, obstacle courses, roller rinks and laser tag will also be permitted to open, and capacity will increase to 50%.
- Fitting rooms will be permitted to open in all types of retail stores.
- Gyms, museums, libraries and driving and flight schools will also be permitted to increase their capacity to 50%.

Read more: [Governor's COVID-19 Order #51](#)

### **October 7, 2020 - Revised Gatherings Order:**

- The limit for indoor gatherings remains at a maximum of 25 people for all communities.
- Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 50 people for all communities.
- Outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings will have a limit of 50 people in Step I communities, and a limit of 100 people in lower risk, Step II communities.

Read more: [Governor's COVID-19 Order #52](#)

### **September 22, 2020 - Report on COVID-19 Survey Results (August 2020)**

The Provincetown Health Department released two surveys in August 2020. The surveys sought to take the temperature of the general community and the business community on how they are faring six months into the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as, their plans and concerns for the off-season. For planning purposes, we also wanted to know if we would be welcoming more community members this off-season than normal. [Community Survey Results](#)  
[Business Survey Results](#)

### **September 22, 2020 – LIST OF RESOURCES**

### Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health

If you or anyone you know is feeling depressed or considering suicide, they can get help on the phone by calling the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)**. To talk to someone through the online chat function or to find a therapist in your area, visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

### Section 7. Impact of COVID-19 on Substance Use

To talk with a Helpline Specialist about accessing resources and support for people who may be using substances, for people in recovery, or for their loved ones, please call **800-327-5050** or visit <https://helplinema.org/covid-19-resources-for-ma/>.

If you or a family member are experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis, you can call **Emergency Services Program/Mobile Crisis Intervention at 1 (877) 382-1609**.

### Adult (Section 9 Youth). Impact of COVID-19 on Employment and Income

If you would like to report an unsafe working condition related to COVID-19, such as a lack of social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene protocols or cleaning and disinfection, please file a COVID-19-Related Workplace Health and Safety complaint with the Office of Attorney General Maura Healey. Your employer cannot retaliate against you for making a complaint about an unsafe working condition:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/report-unsafe-working-conditions-during-covid-19>

### Adult (Section 11 Youth). Impact of COVID-19 on Safety/Violence

We realize that this topic may bring up past experiences that some people may wish to talk about. If you or someone you know needs information, support, or assistance because of unwanted sexual experiences or because of violence in a relationship, you can call the **SafeLink Hotline at 877-785-2020**.

### General Resources

- Massachusetts | To find health and human services available in your community, [visit Mass 211, call 2-1-1](#) or use [live chat](#).
- Massachusetts | Visit [Mass.gov COVID-19 Updates and Information](#) to connect with resources related to:
  - Unemployment insurance
  - Food and economic assistance
  - Business loans and support
  - Childcare providers
  - Renters and homeowners
  - Mental health and well-being
  - Rights related to COVID-19
  - Resources for abuse and neglect
  - Substance use help and prevention
  - Homeless support

### Applying for Health Insurance

Massachusetts | To apply for or learn more about MassHealth insurance, contact MassHealth Customer Service at **(800) 841-2900**; TTY: (800) 497-4648; or visit <https://www.mass.gov/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-and-masshealth>.

### **Reporting Unsafe Work Conditions:**

To report an unsafe working condition related to COVID-19, please file a COVID-19-Related Workplace Health and Safety complaint with the Office of Attorney General Maura Healey. Your employer cannot retaliate against you for making a complaint about an unsafe working condition: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/report-unsafe-working-conditions-during-covid-19>

### **Racism/Discrimination**

Massachusetts | To file a complaint about discrimination occurring in the workplace, housing, public places, access to education, lending, or credit, call the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination at **(617) 994-6000**; TTY **(617) 994-6196**; **(617) 994-6071** or visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-against-discrimination>.

### **Parenting/Parental Stress**

Massachusetts | To talk to someone about parental stress or connect with local parenting resources in your area, call the 24/7 Parental Stress Line: **1-800-632-8188**.

### **Older Adult Services**

Massachusetts | To access services or for information about aging-related issues, visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-elder-affairs>. To connect to a local elder service agency, call **(800) 243-4636**.

### **Reporting Abuse**

- Massachusetts | To report child abuse or neglect: contact the MA Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office; for instructions on reporting, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/report-child-abuse-or-neglect>.
- Massachusetts | To report abuse of a person age 60 or older who lives in the community: Call the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs at **(800) 922-2275** or visit <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/report-elder-abuse>.
- Massachusetts | To report abuse of a person with a disability who is aged 18 to 59: call the MA Disabled Persons Protection Commission at **(800) 426-9009**, TTY: 1-888-822-0350.
- Massachusetts | To report abuse of a person by nursing home or hospital: call the MA Department of Public Health at **(800) 462-5540**.

**September 9, 2020 – MASSACHUSETTS TRAVEL ORDER** Effective August 1st, all travelers entering Massachusetts—both out of state residents and Massachusetts residents returning home—must comply with a new travel order. This includes students returning to campuses for the fall semester. [COVID-19 Travel Order](#) [Lower Risk States](#)

### **September 8, 2020 – COVID-19 WORKPLACE SAFETY RULES**

454 CMR 31.00 is intended to establish a uniform set of [COVID-19 Workplace](#)



[Safety Rules](#) for all enterprises operating brick and mortar premises across the Commonwealth to ensure that all enterprises adopt appropriate health and safety measures to protect against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

### **August 31, 2020 - UPDATED GATHERINGS ORDER**

The State has expanded the Lower-Risk State List to include: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, West Virginia.

Public safety officials, including state and local law enforcement, have the jurisdiction to enforce these orders and event hosts in violation of these orders will be subject to fines or cease and desist orders. To read the gatherings order, [click here](#). [Lower-Risk States on the travel order page](#)

- Reduce the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)
- Apply these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property
- Require face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.

### **August 21, 2020 - Administration Announces Testing Initiative to Help Schools**

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced two rapid response testing initiatives for schools to address potential clusters of COVID-19 cases among students, teachers or staff at a school building.

School officials, after consultation with public health authorities, will be able to request a state-sponsored mobile testing unit come to their school to test a group of students and/or staff if a potential cluster of COVID-19 has been identified and transmission appears to have occurred within the school. This resource is available to both public and private schools.

Before making a request, school administrators should consult with public health authorities first to determine if a request for mobile testing should be made.

The mobile rapid response unit will provide free testing of asymptomatic students or staff, who are not known to be a close contact of someone who tested positive, when there is evidence that COVID-19 transmission may have occurred within a classroom or school within the past 14 days. After consulting with an epidemiologist from the Department of Public Health, a school administrator or the local board of health can request a mobile rapid response unit be deployed by the COVID-19 Command Response Center.

- Anyone under the age of 18 must have written permission from their parent or legal guardian to receive testing.
- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Public Health will release detailed guidance in the coming weeks on how and when testing can be requested, as well as testing and result protocols.
- *The mobile response team may be deployed if the following minimal conditions apply:*
- Two or more students/staff within the classroom group develop COVID-19 within 14 days, and transmission/exposure occurred in the classroom;
- More than 3 percent of the cohort/grade (at least 3 individuals) develop COVID-19 within 14 days, and transmission/exposure occurred in the school;
- More than 3 percent of the school develops COVID-19 within 14 days, and there is evidence of transmission within the school;

- Three or more staff within the same school develop COVID-19 within 14 days, and there is evidence of transmission among the staff; or
- Two or more students on the bus develop COVID-19 within 14 days.

### **August 21, 2020 - Flu Vaccine Now Required for All Students Enrolled in Child Care, Pre-School, K-12, and Post-Secondary Institutions**

State public health officials announced that influenza immunization will be required for all children 6 months of age or older who are attending Massachusetts child care, pre-school, kindergarten, K-12, and colleges and universities. The new vaccine requirement is an important step to reduce flu-related illness and the overall impact of respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students will be expected to have received a flu vaccine by December 31, 2020 for the 2020-2021 influenza season, unless either a medical or religious exemption is provided. Also exempted are K-12 students who are homeschooled and higher education students who are completely off-campus and engaged in remote learning only. This new flu immunization requirement to enter school in January is in addition to existing vaccine requirements for all those attending child care, preschool, K-12, and colleges and universities in Massachusetts. Elementary and secondary students in districts and schools that are using a remote education model are not exempt.

All children at least 6 months old who attend child care or preschool must be immunized in accordance with the [ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule](#).

More information on the new requirement can be found [here](#).

### **August 12, 2020 -**

[Occupancy Summary Quick Guide](#) lists the different occupancy restrictions for Restaurant, Performance Venue, and Indoor/Outdoor Events. Updated for the revised Gathering Order. [Summary for Barriers and Face Coverings](#) lists the implementation of plexiglass barriers, and how it affects whether or not face coverings can be removed.

### **August 7, 2020 – UPDATED GATHERINGS ORDER**

Governor Baker is signing an updated gatherings order, effective Tuesday, August 11, which will:

- Reduce the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)
- Apply these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property
- Require face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.

Due to the recent increase in positive cases, step two of phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan has been postponed indefinitely.

Restaurant rules have been updated to state that alcoholic beverages may only be served for on-site consumption if accompanied by orders for food prepared on-site. The administration will be taking measures to ensure that bars masquerading as restaurants will be closed.

Public safety officials, including state and local law enforcement, have the jurisdiction to enforce these orders and event hosts in violation of these orders will be subject to fines or

cease and desist orders. To read the gatherings order, [click here](#). To read the updated restaurant protocols, [click here](#).

### **August 7, 2020 - Cross-Agency COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team:**

The Administration also announced a targeted cross-agency COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team that will be responsible for ramping up enforcement statewide and coordinating local intervention efforts at the local level in higher risk COVID-19 communities.

Communities will be designated as higher risk COVID-19 communities based on public health data, including but not limited to rising trends for new cases and the percentage of positive COVID tests.

Member agencies include the Executive Office and Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), who will serve as coordinators of the team, the Command Center, the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), the Department of Labor Standards (DLS), the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Division of Local Services (DLS), the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) and the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS).

### **August 3, 2020 – MASSACHUSETTS QUARANTINE ENFORCEMENT**

Massachusetts Department of Public Health will enforce the quarantine requirement. Complaints can be forwarded to [DPH.COVID.Complaints@mass.gov](mailto:DPH.COVID.Complaints@mass.gov)

### **July 28, 2020 – REPORT UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS**

[Report Unsafe Working Conditions in Massachusetts during COVID-19](#)

### **July 27, 2020 – RENTAL AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE**

Housing Assistance has launched a [100% online application](#) for rental and mortgage assistance that enables clients to complete one application form to access multiple financial assistance programs. We have over \$1,500,000 available to distribute to qualified, year-round residents including:

- RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition);
- ERMA (Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance);
- Homebuilders of Cape Cod Fund;
- Town specific funds;
- And our own Workforce Housing Relief Fund;

Housing Assistance is the regional agency providing access to state and local assistance funds. We have trained intake staff working remotely with clients to determine the programs that are the best fit for that client's particular situation, and help clients navigate the systems that are already in place.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Insurance is ending, and the eviction moratorium may end mid-October. Many people who have never had to ask for help, need help now. The good news is that there is also legislation in front of the governor that will authorize more rental assistance funding into our region.

We are a relatively small region in year-round population, but if we stand together, we can ensure our community gets our fair share. Housing Assistance is advocating for funding for the entire Cape and Islands region and demonstrating to our representatives that we have region-wide solutions that efficiently and effectively serve people whose housing is in danger today!

If you know someone who needs help with rent or mortgage, tell them to contact Housing Assistance today. Call 508-771-5400 or email [hac@haconcapecod.org](mailto:hac@haconcapecod.org). Or share this link to our streamlined online application: [Housing Assistance Corporation Online Rental and Mortgage Assistance Application](#)

### **July 24, 2020 - NEW MASSACHUSETTS TRAVEL ORDER**

Effective August 1st, all travelers entering Massachusetts—both out of state residents and Massachusetts residents returning home—must comply with a new travel order. This includes students returning to campuses for the fall semester.

#### **[COVID-19 Travel Order](#)**

The [new travel order](#) requires all visitors and returning residents to fill out a “Massachusetts Traveler Form” unless they are coming from a state that has been designated a lower risk COVID-19 state or fall into an exemption category. The new travel order also provides that visitors and returning residents arriving in Massachusetts from any place other than a COVID-19 lower-risk state must quarantine for 14-days unless they can produce a negative COVID-19 test result administered on a sample taken not more than 72-hours prior to arriving in Massachusetts.

More details on this order will be posted and available at [www.mass.gov/matraveler](http://www.mass.gov/matraveler)

### **July 22, 2020 – Helpful Links:**

- [Stop the Spread](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](#)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [MBTA.com/covid19](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)
- [Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance](#)

### **July 22, 2020 - Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures Extended to October 17**

Governor [extended the pause on evictions and foreclosures for 60 days](#), until October 17, 2020, through the authority granted to the governor by Chapter 65 of the Acts of 2020, *An Act providing for a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 Emergency*, which was signed into law on April 20, 2020. This law’s limitations on evictions and foreclosures have allowed many tenants and homeowners impacted by COVID-19 to

remain in their homes during the state of emergency, and this extension provides residents of the Commonwealth with continued housing security as businesses cautiously re-open, more people return to work, and the state collectively moves toward a “new normal.” The moratorium was set to expire on August 18, 2020. [Click here to read the extension letter.](#)

Tenants are strongly encouraged to continue to pay rent, and homeowners to make their mortgage payments, to the extent they are able. To assist low-income households in making rent and mortgage payments, as well as support landlords needing these rent payments to pay expenses, the [Baker-Polito Administration launched a new \\$20 million, statewide fund](#), the Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) program, on July 1st.

This funding complements the \$18 million currently available through the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) homeless prevention program, which can also be used for rent or mortgage payments. In each program, landlords or mortgage lenders receive payments directly from the RAFT administering agencies.

During this 60-day extension, the Administration will consult with the court administrators and other stakeholders regarding programs and policies to help tenants avoid eviction when proceedings resume.

The law suspends most residential and small business commercial evictions, as well as residential foreclosures. It does not relieve tenants or homeowners of their obligation to pay rent or make mortgage payments. The law also:

- Prevents landlords from sending notifications to residential tenants that threaten eviction or terminating of a lease;
- Limits court actions on non-essential evictions;
- Relieves tenants, both residents and small commercial, from late fees and negative credit reporting;
- Allows landlords to use “last month’s rent” to pay for certain expenses, though not as a replacement rent payment, and only with proper notification of tenant;
- Requires lenders to grant a forbearance for up to 180 days if a homeowner experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 submits such a request; and
- Allows for alternative payment agreements between lenders and borrowers regarding forbearance payments.

Additional resources and information can be found on DHCD’s [COVID-19 Resource Page](#).

**July 21, 2020 - ABCC Advisory on On-Premises Licensees Selling Mixed Drinks for Off-Premises Consumption.** On July 20, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker signed a bill authorizing on-premises licensees to sell mixed drinks for off-premises consumption for the duration of the Governor’s declared state of emergency or until February 28, 2021, whichever comes later.

Effective immediately and until the end of the state of emergency or February 28, 2021, whichever comes later, all on-premises licensees licensed for the sale of all alcoholic beverages or wine, malt, and cordials, may sell mixed drinks for off-premises consumption subject to the following conditions:

- 1) the mixed drink must be of the same distilled spirits proportions as if it was prepared for on-premises consumption;
- 2) the mixed drink shall be sold in a sealed container, meaning:
  - a) a packaged container with a secure lid or cap designed to prevent consumption without removal of the lid or cap;
  - b) if the packaged container has a lid with sipping holes or an opening for straws, the container shall be covered or affixed with an additional seal;



- c) the lid, cap or seal shall be affixed in such a way as to prevent reopening without it being obvious that the lid, cap or seal was removed or broken; and
  - d) affixing the cap may be completed by the use of tape or other sticking adhesive before sale.
- 3) each customer shall be limited to not more than 64 fluid ounces of mixed drinks per transaction;
- 4) if the mixed drink is to be transported by a motor vehicle, either by delivery or pick-up, the driver of the motor vehicle shall transport the mixed drink in the trunk of the motor vehicle or in some other area that is not considered the passenger area as defined in section 24I of chapter 90 of the General Laws.

The sale of mixed drinks may only be done from opening until 12:00 am midnight, or the licensee's closing time previously approved by the Local Licensing Authority, whichever is earlier. Please note, in Provincetown this would be 11:00pm.

All licensees must verify that both the purchaser and recipient of alcohol are at least 21 years old.

Sales must be made as part of a takeout order by way of pickup, including curbside pickup, and delivery. Licensees do not need to obtain a separate transportation permit under M.G.L. c. 138, § 22, in order to make deliveries. Licensees are advised to check with their Local Licensing Authority on any additional requirements in order to sell alcohol for curbside pickup.

All sales must be accompanied by a receipt reflecting the purchase of food along with alcohol, and licensees must keep copies of all receipts for inspection by licensing authorities.

This Advisory should be read in conjunction with the April 3, 2020, Advisory Regarding On-Premises Licensees Selling for Off-Premises Consumption, which can be found <https://www.mass.gov/doc/abcc-advisory-regarding-on-premises-licensees-selling-for-off-premises-consumption/download>

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law.

### **July 18, 2020 – Cape Cod National Seashore Provincetown update**

Please see [update on what is open and operating in Provincetown](#) within the Cape Cod National Seashore as of July 16, 2020. As changes arise, we will send additional updates. *Please follow state and CDC COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. Maintain at least 6 feet between you and others. Wear face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Place beach blankets 12 feet from others to allow walking room.*

### **July 18, 2020 - [Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance program](#)**

This new fund helps low-income households who have lost employment or income due to the pandemic maintain stable housing, and builds on DHCD's existing homelessness prevention program.

### **July 18, 2020 – Stay Informed**

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results. Call 2-1-1 with questions. Text the keyword



COVIDMA to 888-777 to receive notifications to your phone. To receive these notifications in Spanish, text COVIDMAESP to 888-777

- Take care of your emotional health: Call 2-1-1 and choose the “CALL2TALK” option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.

**July 15, 2020** - New portal to report a business in noncompliance with reopening standards  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-covid-19-compliance>

### **July 15, 2020 - The Provincetown Hospitality Employee COVID-19 Testing Initiative**

The Town of Provincetown, Outer Cape Health Services, and the Provincetown Business Community have partnered to offer COVID-19 testing to hospitality employees who work in town, at no cost to the employees. On Wednesday, July 22, there will be a one-day testing initiative to test asymptomatic\* Provincetown hospitality workers in the aftermath of early July activities. The health and safety of hospitality employees are a top priority for the business community and the town.

Wednesday July 22, 2020 - 1 – 6 pm

Outer Cape Health Services

49 Harry Kemp Way, Provincetown

Space is limited. Registration is required.

Registration and payment must be received by Friday, July 17th at noon.

To register your employees, fill out the registration form (attached or linked [here](#)) with ALL fields filled out for each hospitality employee who would like to be tested. The cost is \$75 per employee registered. Return completed registration form(s) with a check made out to the “Town of Provincetown” in an envelope marked for the Town Treasurer in the drop box outside the Ryder Street entrance on the lower level of Town Hall.

***\*Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) should call 508-905-2888 as soon as possible to be screened for testing. People experiencing symptoms are eligible for testing at no cost.***

### **July 13, 2020 - Hurricane Preparedness and COVID-19**

Governor Charlie Baker has proclaimed July 12 - 18, 2020, to be [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) in an effort to emphasize both the Commonwealth’s potential vulnerability to tropical storms and hurricanes, and the importance of preparing for their impact, including taking

necessary precautions during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Residents and visitors are encouraged to use this week to prepare for hurricanes, tropical storms and other emergencies.

#### How Residents Can Prepare

- Make an Emergency Plan – Have an emergency plan of how your family would communicate, evacuate, and shelter in place that addresses the needs of all of your family members, including seniors, children, individuals with access and functional needs, and pets. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/make-a-family-emergency-plan>  
During the COVID-19 pandemic, your plan to evacuate should include where you might evacuate to (relatives' home, hotel, etc.) given your circumstances. If you are in a high-risk population, the safest option may be to evacuate to a location without the general public such as a hotel, relatives' home or other destination.
- Build an Emergency Kit - Build or customize an emergency kit that will sustain your household for three to five days without power. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/build-an-emergency-kit>.
  - o During the COVID-19 pandemic, include face coverings or masks, disinfectants, hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies that you may need in an emergency.
- Stay Informed - Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, social and traditional news media, 2-1-1 hotline and local notification systems: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/be-informed-and-receive-emergency-alerts>
- Know Your Evacuation Zone - Learn if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone: [www.mass.gov/knowyourzone](http://www.mass.gov/knowyourzone)

For more information, visit the Hurricane Safety Tips section of MEMA's website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/hurricane-safety-tips>.

Commonwealth Hurricane Season Preparedness Activities in a COVID-19 Environment  
MEMA and the Department of Public Health have developed guidance for the Commonwealth and municipalities for providing operating shelters and conducting evacuations during COVID-19. This guidance will be provided to municipalities to inform their planning and preparedness for hurricane season and will be used to adjust the Commonwealth's mass care and evacuation plans to help keep individuals both safe and healthy during a disaster.

Working in partnership with the Emergency Support Function Team and with local partners, some of the steps MEMA is taking to prepare for the 2020 hurricane season during COVID-19 include re-evaluating capacities of state-initiated regional shelter sites; preparing for the need for additional evacuation transportation vehicles; adding screening, sanitization, disinfection, and general public health protocols to existing mass care plans; and planning for and preparing to provide sheltering in non-congregate settings such as hotels.

#### **July 9, 2020 – Reopening Guidance**

Updated Safety Standards for sectors just opened for Phase 3 (July 6, 2020). Reopening guidance and checklists for sectors that were already opened (retail, lodgings, restaurants,

personal services) as Phase 3 downloads. The various checklists and updated our COVID-19 Re-Opening webpage with the links to these sector-specific postings:

**[Phase 3 Re-Opening Order for July 6, 2020](#)** and **[July 2, 2020 Second Revised Order](#)**

[Regulating Gatherings](#)

[Restaurants](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Lodgings](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Retail](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Theaters and Performance venues](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Fitness Centers and Health Clubs](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Indoor and Outdoor Events](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Indoor Recreation](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Museums/Cultural/Historic/Tours](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Indoor Pools](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Close Personal Contact Personal Services](#) Step 1 Phase 3

[Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed](#) Step 1 Phase 3

### **July 8, 2020 – Small Business Strong**

“Small Business Strong is a partnership between several organizations across the Commonwealth created to provide high-quality services to Massachusetts small businesses to help them bridge through the current economic crisis, with a particular focus on those that are minority- and women-owned, at no cost to small business owners. It provides access to a group of professional volunteers, able to provide guidance and advice on how to best address challenges they may be facing, and further consultation in the areas of Finance and Accounting, Operations, Marketing and Digital, Human Resources and Law. Visit the Small Business Strong website at [www.smallbstrong.com](http://www.smallbstrong.com).”

### **July 8, 2020 – Governor’s Revised Gatherings Order**

Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility’s maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.

### **July 2, 2020 - Reopening Massachusetts: Baker-Polito Administration Initiates Transition to Third Phase of Four-Phase Approach on Monday, July 6.**

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced that on July 6<sup>th</sup>, Phase III of the Commonwealth’s reopening plan will begin and updates on gatherings will be in effect. The Department of Public Health (DPH) also issued updated guidance to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

### **Step One of Phase III:**

On May 18, the administration released a four-phased plan to reopen the economy based on public health data, spending at least three weeks in each phase. Key public health data, such as new cases and hospitalizations, have been closely monitored and has seen a decline allowing for Phase III to begin on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

The public health dashboard designating the progress of key COVID-19 data metrics has been updated to reflect the number of COVID-19 patients in Massachusetts hospitals to green, indicating a positive trend.

Since mid-April, the 7-day average for the positive COVID-19 test rate is down 94 percent, the 3-day average of hospitalized patients is down 79 percent and the number of hospitals in surge is down 86 percent.

More than 1,000,000 total COVID-19 tests have been administered, and testing continues throughout the state.

The following businesses will be eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III, subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations:

- Movie theaters and outdoor performance venues;
- Museums, cultural and historical sites;
- Fitness centers and health clubs;
- Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact;
- Professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators

Full guidance and list of businesses eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III can be found at [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening). Businesses and sectors set to begin opening in Phase III are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards.

### **Revised Gatherings Order:**

Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space.

Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.

This revised order does not supersede previously issued sector guidance, and is effective beginning Monday, July 6. It will be effective Monday, July 13 in the City of Boston.

### **Public Health Guidance:**

In Phase III, health care providers may continue to provide in-person procedures and services as allowed in Phase II, with the addition of certain group treatment programs and day programs. These programs include adult day health, day habilitation programs, and substance abuse services day treatment and outpatient services. Certain human services programs can reopen including community based day services for adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities and psychosocial rehabilitation clubhouses.

Health care providers are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards, and must continue to utilize prioritization policies established in Phase II for care delivery and scheduling, as well as monitor patient volume for non-essential, elective procedures and services. Read the full guidance [here](#).

In Phase III, visitation guidelines have been updated for 24/7 congregate care facilities and programs overseen by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, including the Departments of Developmental Services, Youth Services, Children and Families, Public Health, Mental Health and the Mass Rehabilitation Commission. Offsite visits, including overnight visits, will be allowed, under specific guidelines. Other updated guidelines, including

visitation for long term care facilities, will be released later today. Complete visitation guidance is available at [www.mass.gov/hhs/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/hhs/reopening).

MassHealth will also extend its current telehealth flexibility through at least the end of the year to ensure member access to critical health care services and encourage continued adherence to preventative public health precautions.

### **July 2, 2020 – State Travel Guidance Announced**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced new COVID-19 public health [guidelines](#) on travel and transportation. Effective Wednesday, July 1, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts, including residents returning home, are instructed to self-quarantine for 14-days. This guidance does not apply to travelers from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York or New Jersey. Additionally, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are also exempt from this directive. Travelers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are instructed to not travel to Massachusetts. All visitors and residents of Massachusetts are also reminded that the use of masks or face coverings in public places where individuals cannot socially distance from others remains [required](#). These new guidelines replace [previously announced](#) Massachusetts travel guidance. For national travel information, please visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

### **July 2, 2020 – Governor Resumes Permitting Deadlines**

On March 26, the Governor issued COVID-19 Order No. 17, which, for permits issued State and Town regulatory authorities, tolled the expiration dates of such permits during the state of emergency, suspended constructive approvals of permits and hearing and decision deadlines, and extended appeal deadlines. The suspensions were required because, with the closure of non-essential businesses, many government offices were not open to the public and, as a result, were unable to timely process requests for licenses, permits, approvals, and certificates of registration. The improvement in public health data has allowed the resumption of services and permitting, with the consequence that the suspension of is no longer necessary. See full order:

[\*\*ORDER RESUMING STATE PERMITTING DEADLINES AND CONTINUING TO EXTEND THE VALIDITY OF CERTAIN STATE PERMITS\*\*](#)

### **June 30, 2020 – Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) Program**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced a new \$20 million, statewide fund to assist low-income households facing difficulty making rent and mortgage payments. The Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) program will provide direct funding to eligible households who have suffered financial hardship during the State of Emergency put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19.

ERMA will expand eligibility for rental and mortgage assistance to more low-income households who have been impacted by the crisis by adjusting the income threshold beyond the state's traditional Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program. This includes households within the 50-80% range of Area Median Income (AMI). Like the RAFT program, ERMA will provide up to \$4,000 for eligible households to pay rent or mortgage payments in arrears going back to payments due April 1, 2020.

On the Cape, the program is administered by [Housing Assistance Corporation Cape Cod](#).

Funding for the new program includes \$10 million from the supplemental CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) fund, part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act



(CARES Act), in addition to other federal resources. This new funding will serve twice as many households as the traditional RAFT program by greatly expanding eligibility to families who would otherwise not qualify for RAFT. This new emergency program builds on the Administration's work to stabilize families during this uncertain time. In March, Governor Baker announced a \$5 million expansion of RAFT.

Since the beginning of the State of Emergency, the Administration has supported housing stability for households across the Commonwealth. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has drafted emergency regulations to protect tenants under the eviction and foreclosure moratorium, supported our state-aided public housing and affordable housing operators with guidance, and worked with stakeholders across the state to coordinate resources. [Additional resources and information can be found on the department's COVID-19 Resource Page.](#)

DHCD has received more than \$160 million in federal funding through the CARES Act, including more than \$20 million which has been distributed to Community Action Agencies for anti-poverty work, and is preparing to allocate additional funding for shelter providers and municipalities. DHCD is also working with CHAPA and Mass Housing Partnership to track local emergency rental assistance programs and other resources available to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration [unveiled a COVID-19 economic recovery package](#) to respond to challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$275 million package, designed to promote equity across the Commonwealth, proposes \$40 million for neighborhood stabilization to bring safe, affordable housing units back on the market, \$10 million for sustainable, climate resilient affordable housing, and includes the language of *An Act to Promote Housing Choices*, the Administration's bill to advance new housing production in Massachusetts by reforming zoning laws.

### **June 20, 2020 - Baker-Polito Administration Initiates Transition to Step Two of Second Phase of Four-Phase Approach ([News Release](#))**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that Step Two of Phase II of the Commonwealth's four-phase reopening plan, [Reopening Massachusetts](#), will begin on Monday, June 22 to allow additional industries to resume operations under sector-specific guidelines.

Businesses and sectors set to begin operating in Step Two of Phase II are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards.

On May 18, the Administration [released](#) a four-phased plan to reopen the economy based on public health data, spending at least three weeks in each phase. Key public health data, such as new cases and hospitalizations, has been closely monitored and seen a significant decline allowing for Step Two of Phase II to begin on June 22.

The following will be eligible to reopen in Step Two of Phase II on Monday, June 22:

- Indoor table service at restaurants;
- Close contact personal services, with restrictions;
- Retail dressing rooms, by appointment only;
- Offices, at 50 percent capacity

Full list and safety protocols available at [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening).



In order to give Step 2 businesses time to prepare, the Administration had previously released sector-specific guidance in advance of Phase II for industries including restaurants, close-contact personal services and sectors not otherwise addressed:

- [Guidance for Restaurants](#)
- [Guidance for Close-Contact Personal Services](#)
- [Guidance for Other Industries](#)
- [Guidance for Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed](#)

Before these sectors can resume operations under the guidelines, businesses must meet all safety standards, create a COVID-19 control plan, and complete a self-certification. [VIEW THE FULL REPORT VIEW GOVERNOR BAKER'S PHASE II EXECUTIVE ORDER](#)

### **June 16, 2020 - Outer Cape Health Services Announces Free Covid-19 Testing Services for Wednesday June 17 and Thursday June 18**

*Free Program in Collaboration with Commonwealth for Individuals Recently at Large Gatherings.* [Outer Cape Health Services \(OCHS\) announced](#), in partnership with the Massachusetts Covid Command Center, that its health centers in Provincetown, will provide free Covid-19 testing for individuals who recently participated in a large gathering within the past two weeks. Special free testing hours will be available to the general public at OCHS' three health centers exclusively on Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18 to asymptomatic individuals. Outer Cape Health Services strongly requests that individuals call ahead to register for free testing for either Wednesday June 17 or Thursday, June 18. Testing hours will be 8am to 7pm on both days at the Provincetown Health Center at 49 Harry Kemp Way.

### **June 15, 2020 – FREE COVID TESTING FOR PROTEST PARTICIPANTS**

Governor Charlie Baker announced a two-day 'pop up' testing initiative—this Wednesday-Thursday—for anyone who has attended a recent large gathering at no cost to the individual. The new website [www.mass.gov/GetTested](http://www.mass.gov/GetTested) went live at noon. It contains details including locations for testing.

### **June 15, 2020 - REMINDER NOTICES AND LINKS:**

[Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito Announce that Phase 2 of the Reopening will Begin on Monday, June 8:](#) Over the weekend, the Baker-Polito Administration formally announced that Phase 2 of the state's reopening process will begin on June 8, expanding the businesses and activities that will be allowed, following the mandatory safety standards, industry-specific guidance and restrictions, and recommended best practices. Click the link above to be connected to the announcement and the rules governing Phase 2.

[Legislature OK's bill allowing changes to Town Meeting, elections and budget processes:](#) On June 4, the House and Senate sent to the governor a bill that would allow communities to change certain Town Meeting, elections and budget processes in response to the ongoing public health emergency. To see what communities are doing, visit this link: [With time running short, towns pursue range of town meeting and election options](#)  
[Executive order allows preparations for reopening outdoor dining, child care, retail, sports:](#) This past week, Gov. Charlie Baker issued an executive order that allows Phase 2 businesses to immediately reopen their physical workplaces to workers in order to conduct preparations for a safe reopening. The order also provides regulatory relief and flexibility for cities and towns to

move swiftly to assist restaurants with outdoor dining. In addition, the Administration released an [updated list of enterprises and when they can reopen \(phases 2, 3, and 4\)](#)

### **Department of Early Education and Care Updated Guidance/Information Regarding Childcare, Summer Camps and Other Programs**

[Childcare Provider Reopening Order \(COVID-19 Order No. 36\)](#): The Baker-Polito Administration announced the availability of guidance for child care, recreational summer day camps and youth programs, which may reopen in Phase 2.

[Massachusetts Child and Youth Serving Programs Reopen Approach](#)

[Massachusetts Child and Youth Serving Programs: Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety](#)

[Reopening Child Care: A Phased Approach](#)

[Child and Youth-Serving Program Reopening Approach: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### **Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Updated Guidance**

[Youth and Adult Sports](#)

[Swimming Pools](#)

[Playgrounds, Spray Decks, and Outdoor Fitness Areas](#)

[Campgrounds](#)

### **Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development**

[Golf](#)

[Safety Standards and Checklist: Retail Businesses](#)

[Safety Standards and Checklist: Restaurants](#)

[Safety Standards and Checklist: Operators of Lodgings](#)

### **Department of Education**

[Summer School](#)

### **Alcohol Beverage Control Commission**

[Advisory Regarding Local Licensing Authorities' Approval of Outdoor Seating](#)

### **June 12, 2020 - Guidance to Visitors and our Seasonal Community**

Information for Members of Cape Cod & the Island's Seasonal Community:

*Updated as of June 9, 2020 - [Effective through the end of Phase 2 of Governor Baker's Phased Plan to Reopen Massachusetts](#).* Cape Cod appreciates, welcome, and depend on

you, our visitors, seasonal residents, non-resident homeowners, and seasonal workforce. As of June 8, 2020, Massachusetts entered the first part of Phase 2 of opening businesses and organizations. [Cape Cod and the Islands are now welcoming visitors with some restrictions.](#)

### **June 12, 2020 – Guidance for Town Meetings to Address COVID-19**

These [sector specific COVID-19 safety recommendations](#) for Town Meetings are issued to provide municipalities with instructions to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 as in-person meetings resume.

### **June 12, 2020 - How to Help Out**

- [Donate](#) to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: [Please click here](#).
- Get involved with the new Community Tracing Collaborative: [Please click here](#).
- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: [Please click here](#).
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here](#).
- Apply for Jobs at COVID-19 Temporary Care Sites ([Details Here](#)).

### **June 4, 2020 - Re-opening Process Update**

On Monday, June 1, the Governor signed an executive order that allowed businesses to prepare to reopen in Phase 2. Public health experts will be monitoring health data all week to determine when the Commonwealth can start Phase 2. More information will be shared on Saturday to detail when Phase 2 starts. Lt. Gov. Polito, Secretary Kennealy, and Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy provided updates on health and safety protocols for sectors of the economy slated to open next, including:

[Guidance for retail businesses](#)

[Guidance for amateur sports programs for youth and adults, and summer sports camps](#)

[Guidance for child care and youth serving programs](#)

### **June 1, 2020 - Executive Order Issued in Advance of Phase II of Reopening Massachusetts**

Today, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order that provides a detailed list of businesses and activities that fall into Phases II, III, and IV of the Commonwealth's Re-Opening Plan. The Order also permits all Phase II enterprises, including retail, to begin preparations to safely resume operation in advance of the start of the second phase. In addition to the retail sector, the Executive Order details further requirements for the safe resumption of amateur youth and adult sports and outdoor dining.

Effective immediately, the Executive Order permits Phase II businesses to reopen their physical workplaces to workers only to conduct necessary preparations prior to the start of Phase II. Preparations include but are not limited to completing a COVID-19 Control Plan, implementing sector-specific protocols, and complying with Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards.

- For Reopening Phase II Executive Order, [click here](#).
- For Childcare Provider Reopening Order, [click here](#).

### [VIEW UPDATED LIST OF ENTERPRISES IN PHASES II, III, and IV](#)

**Retailers:** Retail stores will transition from curbside pickup and delivery-only to browsing and in-store transactions with restrictions at the start of Phase II.

Social distancing guidance requires each retail store to monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to either 8 persons (including store staff) per 1,000 square feet of accessible, indoor space, or 40% of the retail store's maximum permitted occupancy, whichever is greater.

Grocery stores and retail stores with pharmacy services must provide at least one hour of dedicated time for adults 60 years of age and older, while all stores are encouraged to offer exclusive hours or other accommodations for high-risk populations. For staffing, stores

should adjust workplace hours and shifts, including leveraging staggered arrival / departure, to minimize contact across workers and to allow for on-going and off-hour sanitation and cleaning. Stores should also conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces.

Operators of enclosed shopping malls and other indoor, multi-tenant retail spaces must monitor customer and worker entries and exits to common areas and limit occupancy of common areas at all times to 40% of maximum permitted occupancy levels. Mall amenities like seating in food courts, children's play areas, and arcades must remain closed, while mall food vendors and restaurants may only provide take-out or delivery service.

Once Phase II begins, these standards will apply to all retail businesses except for Farmers' Markets, which shall continue to be governed by Department of Public Health guidance. These standards will supersede and replace existing Department of Public Health guidance governing grocery stores and pharmacies.

Retailers that have been defined as providing Essential Services pursuant to COVID-19 Order No. 13 will be required to comply with these sector-specific safety protocols within one week of the date that Retailers are authorized to open pursuant to the Governor's Phase II Reopening Order. [For full retail business guidance, click here.](#)

**Sports:** The Order also allows organizers of amateur sports programs for youths and adults to open their premises to staff only to make preparations in advance of the start of Phase II. In addition to requiring generally applicable COVID-19 workplace standards, the Order specifies that during Phase II organized sports programs will operate under the following provisions:

- Limiting traditional contact sports to no-contact drills and practices;
- Prohibiting games, scrimmages, and tournaments;
- Separating participants into groups of 10 or less;
- Restricting the use of indoor athletic facilities to supervised sports programs and sport camps for youths under the age of 18.

Further sector-specific guidance for youth and adult amateur sports programs will be issued in the coming days. Subject to the implementation of COVID-19 health and safety rules adopted by respective leagues, this Order permits professional sports organizations to reopen their premises to employees and other workers for practices and training; however, professional sports organizations are not allowed to engage in inter-team games and sporting facilities will remain closed to the public.

**Restaurants:** Lastly, the Order permits restaurants to provide outdoor dining service with restrictions upon the start of Phase II; providing continued positive progression of public health data, indoor dining may be authorized by a subsequent order during Phase II. In order to provide improved opportunities for outdoor table service, the order also provides flexibility to a local licensing authority to grant approval for a change for any type of license that permits the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. In both outdoor and indoor dining cases, restaurants will be required to comply with sector-specific COVID-19 workplace safety rules for restaurants.

**May 29, 2020 – Governor Baker releases Phase 2 Guidance for Restaurants and Lodgings.**

Mandatory safety standards and recommended best practices for Restaurants and Lodgings which are scheduled to open in Phase 2. [Sector-specific Protocols and Best Practices.](#) Guidance with Checklist in pdf form: [Restaurants](#) [Lodgings](#)

**May 29, 2020 – Cape Cod Reopening Task Force Information**  
<https://www.reopeningcapecod.org/>

### **May 28, 2020 - Nationwide Unemployment Scam Targets Massachusetts Claimants**

Criminal enterprises in possession of stolen personal information from earlier national data breaches have been attempting to file large amounts of illegitimate unemployment claims through the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) system. This is part of a national unemployment fraud scheme.

The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has begun implementing additional identity verification measures that will temporarily delay the payment timeframe for many unemployment claims in Massachusetts. As a result of these measures, certain unemployment claimants may be asked to provide additional identity information in order to verify the validity of their claim.

“Protecting the integrity of the unemployment system and ensuring benefits are going only to valid claimants is the top priority of the Department of Unemployment Assistance,” said Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta. “While the program integrity measures we are taking will unfortunately mean that some claimants will experience temporary delays in payment, we believe these steps are necessary to respond to this unemployment scam. We are working rapidly to respond to this scheme and urge individuals who may have had a false unemployment claim filed in their name to contact the Department.”

Individuals who believe they may have had a false unemployment claim filed using their identity are urged to utilize the Department of Unemployment Assistance fraud contact form at [mass.gov/unemployment-fraud](https://mass.gov/unemployment-fraud) or to call the DUA customer service department at [877-626-6800](tel:877-626-6800).

### **May 28, 2020 - Disaster Recovery Information**

On March 27, the President [declared](#) a Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through this declaration, federal aid will be made available to cities and towns, state agencies, and certain non-profits in all Massachusetts counties to help pay for emergency protective measures (response costs) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. MEMA’s Recovery Unit has developed a [webpage](#) with information and guidance on, but not limited to, disaster declaration, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

### **May 22, 2020 - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation**

Massachusetts residents who are eligible for the federal CARES Act and qualify for having exhausted their regular unemployment compensation may now receive the new Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). The launch of this program marks the third and final benefit available for the Commonwealth through the CARES Act.

PEUC provides up to 13 additional weeks of benefits to an individual who has exhausted all rights to any regular unemployment compensation and who meets other eligibility requirements of the CARES Act. PEUC will automatically begin for individuals who have been receiving regular



standard unemployment benefits on an active claim and those benefits are exhausted, and those individuals do not have to take any further action.

If an individual's standard unemployment claim has expired, they must file a new standard claim. If the individual is monetarily eligible on the new standard claim, regardless of the benefit rate amount, they will receive benefits from that new claim. Otherwise, the individual will be eligible for PEUC on the prior claim and it will be automatically implemented. The state needs to "make sure we have domestic ability to manufacture and distribute" personal protective equipment and testing materials" –

Individuals who exhausted their standard benefits but were receiving benefits through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) must apply to claim weekly benefits. Residents should apply through the standard [unemployment benefits portal available here](#).

Those receiving PEUC will also receive \$600 weekly through the week ending July 25, 2020, provided by the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program established by the CARES Act.

The CARES Act signed into law on March 27, 2020, established the PEUC, PUA and FPUC public benefit programs that expanded unemployment eligibility, temporarily increases weekly benefits for all claimants and allows additional categories of people to claim unemployment benefits. This is the largest expansion of assistance for the Commonwealth's workforce since the Great Depression.

More information about Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation can be found at [www.mass.gov/peuc](http://www.mass.gov/peuc).

### **May 22, 2020 - Cape Cod Covid-19 Data Dashboard**

The Cape Cod Commission created the [Cape Cod COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to provide demographic and economic data for Cape Cod towns, non-profit organizations, and businesses recovering from the economic impacts of COVID-19. The dashboards include regional and town data (when available) on population demographics, unemployment trends, rooms and meals tax revenues, employment, housing, and seasonality.

### **May 22, 2020 – Cape Cod Businesses: COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey**

Cape Cod Commission and Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce seek to better understand local businesses' needs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has caused severe economic distress in our community, and this survey can help us quantify the extent and timing of these impacts in anticipation of potential solutions and grant opportunities. [Business Economic Impact Survey](#) Survey results will be anonymous and shared only in aggregated formats. If you own more than one business, please fill out individual surveys for each business.

### **May 21, 2020 - Have a question about Reopening Massachusetts?**

You can submit your questions and comments about the phased reopening effort by visiting the Reopening Massachusetts website. ([Submit your questions here.](#))

### **May 20, 2020 – Retail Uses Reopening Guidance from the State**

According to the most recent Governor's Guidance, retail in Phase 1 starting on May 25, 2020 is limited to **remote fulfillment and curbside pickup only**. Phase 2 (undetermined timeframe) may allow inside browsing with some restrictions which are not yet available from the State. Retail establishments are reminded that outdoor displays are only permitted with prior Zoning approval. The Town will be enforcing these regulations.



### **May 20, 2020 – Vendor List for Workplace PPEs**

Among the many resources on the [Reopening Massachusetts](#) website is a section that provides employers and employees information on supplies needed to return to workplaces. The site also includes a sortable [list of vendors that can supply the materials](#) needed during all phases of the reopening.

### **May 18, 2020 – Massachusetts Reopening Plan [Governor Baker's Phased Reopening Plan Report](#)**

**New Sectors opening on May 18:** Upon implementing new COVID-19 safety standards and completing a self-attestation checklist, Manufacturing & Construction and Places of Worship are permitted to reopen on Monday, May 18 under the following protocols:

[Manufacturing & Construction](#)  
[Houses/Places of Worship](#)

Each business or House of Worship will be required to meet the Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards linked above before reopening. Additionally, each industry also has a series of Sector Specific Protocols, that detail the policies workplaces should enforce to maintain compliance.

**New Sectors opening on May 25:** Office space at 25% occupancy, limited personal services like hair and pet grooming, and remote fulfillment and curbside pickup retail.

[Four Phased Approach Website Page](#)  
[Guidance for Businesses on the Reopening Plan](#)

### **May 18, 2020 – Essential Services NEW Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards**

Businesses that have operated during the closure because they offer “essential services” will continue to do so throughout the phased reopening. However, they will be required to meet **NEW Mandatory Workplace Safety standards** by Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, including:

- **COVID-19 control plan template** – Template that satisfies the written control plan requirement for self-certification
- **Compliance attestation poster** – Poster that customer facing businesses are required to print, sign, and post in an area within the business premises that is visible to workers and visitors
- **Employer and Worker posters** – Posters that businesses can print and display within the business premises to describe the rules for maintaining social distancing, hygiene protocols, and cleaning and disinfecting

### **May 14, 2020 - Expanded Testing Criteria:**

The State Department of Public Health (DPH) issued updated guidance about the appropriate use of laboratory testing for COVID-19 and expanded testing recommendations in clinical and commercial laboratories. The new guidance expands the criteria for COVID-19 testing eligibility.

Updated guidelines recommend the following:

All symptomatic individuals, including those with mild symptoms, should be tested.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- o Fever, chills or shaking chills
- o Signs of a lower respiratory illness
- o Fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches or new loss of sense of taste or smell

- o Other less common symptoms can include gastrointestinal symptoms and inflammatory conditions
- o In elderly, chronically ill or debilitated individuals, symptoms of COVID-19 may be subtle, including alterations in mental status or in blood glucose control

All individuals who are identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 confirmed case by a local board of health, DPH, the Community Tracing Collaborative or a healthcare provider should be tested. [Read the guidance here.](#)

### **May 13, 2020 - Memorial Day Message from the Provincetown Town Manager**

Provincetown realizes that our attraction is undeniable, especially as the weather starts to warm up. But please understand that Provincetown is still adhering to the Governor's Stay-at-home Advisory and therefore we are not prepared to start our summer quite yet. Memorial Day Weekend is right around the corner, but the Governor has yet to provide the community with any concrete guidance on which parts of our economy we can open. Please understand that until such time as we have a solid re-opening plan, the Town is unable to accommodate our normal summer crush of visitors.

Provincetown is not open for business as usual and will unlikely be able to pivot to do that by Memorial Day Weekend.

Provincetown continues to maintain essential business activities and services only until we get the clearance by Governor Baker and until such time that our community can agree on a safe path forward.

- Please consider postponing any non-essential travel.
- Our parking lots are limited for Provincetown permit holders and those accessing essential services only. Capacity in our lots may be reduced to accomplish the Town's social distancing goals.
- Neighborhood resident permit parking restrictions are in place. There is no parking on Commercial Street between Johnson Street and Winthrop Street.
- If you own a home here or must travel, please respect our social distancing measures and wear a mask when in public and unable to social distance, or anytime when you are on Commercial Street from Bangs Street to Pleasant Street between 9am and 9pm. Maintain 6 feet separation and avoid gather in crowds of non-family members.
- If you are coming from out of state, please bring the necessary food, prescriptions, and personal supplies to enable your 14-day quarantine. Reach out to our social services agencies if you need assistance with this.
- Avoid coming if you are experience flu-like symptoms.

We ask for your patience while we all try to remain safe until we can open our doors and welcome you as in the past. With your help, we can recover from this virus and these challenging economic times. We look forward to welcoming you back. Thank you for supporting this place that we all love by respecting this guidance.

### **May 13, 2020 – Water Department COVID-19 Operations FAQ**

Provincetown Water Department has created a frequently asked questions page on the town website regarding the department's operating policies during Covid-19.

<https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/1342/Water-Department-Operations-During-COVID>

**May 11, 2020 – Governor Baker Announced Four-Phased Approach to Reopening the Massachusetts Economy.** The Massachusetts economy will be reopened using a four-phase approach, based on public health guidance. Businesses and activities with a lower risk of COVID-19 transmission will open in earlier phases. Public health metrics will determine when the first phase of reopening begins, as well as when it is safe to move into later phases. If public health metrics worsen, the state may need to return to an earlier phase.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-four-phase-approach>

**May 11, 2020 - Provincetown Recovery Coalition Announces [Results of Its Business Survey](#).** The Provincetown Recovery Coalition's Business Group recently surveyed 500 businesses in Provincetown to identify support for new working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the summer season approaches, it was clear from the respondents that utilizing safety measures such as social distancing, enhanced sanitation, PPE & masks, and contactless payment was the top priority. The business sectors reached by the survey include retail stores, galleries, lodging, restaurants, salons/spas, realtors, financial services, entertainment venues, bars and transportation companies.

### **May 8, 2020 – Cape Cod Reopening Task Force also accepting Comments**

Task Force Launched to Reopen Cape Cod Safely

A region-wide task force has been assembled to develop strategies for reopening Cape Cod once it is safe to do so. The Cape Cod Reopening Task Force is led by the Cape & Islands Legislative Delegation, the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, and Barnstable County, with participation from Cape Cod Healthcare, municipal officials, first responders, community leaders, and others.

The goal of the Task Force is to pursue a safe and structured approach to reopening commercial and social activities on Cape Cod. Through its work, the Task Force will coordinate authorities and entities across Cape Cod to provide one consistent message to the region's year-round residents, seasonal residents, second home-owners, summer workers, and visitors; such coordination will both advance public health and promote economic vitality when we are able to reopen.

The Cape Cod Reopening Task Force will work to compile and disseminate guidelines for businesses, workers, residents, and visitors. Forthcoming guidance from the Task Force will align with recommendations from the Governor's Reopening Advisory Board, advisories from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Executive Orders from Governor Baker. The work of the Task Force will be done in consultation with the Baker-Polito Administration. The Task Force reiterates that Governor Baker, the Governor's Reopening Advisory Board, and guidance from public health experts will dictate the timeline of reopening on Cape Cod.

The public is invited to submit comments to the Task Force. Comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration as the Task Force develops a reopening report. [Comments can be submitted online here](#)

### **May 4, 2020 - Community-Wide Social Service Survey**

**The Provincetown Recovery Coalition [Announces Community-Wide Social Services Survey](#).** The goal is to understand the community's thoughts and needs to provide direction to the coalition, the select board, and town government. [Link to the Survey](#)

**May 4, 2020 - Provincetown's Mask Order**

Provincetown Select Board voted on May 4, 2020 to adopt the [Governor's Face Covering Order](#) and add "any member of the public not covered under the Governor's Order utilizing Commercial Street from Bangs Street to Pleasant Street between 9 am and 9 pm must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth and must exercise social distancing in accordance with the CDC guidelines and shall remain in effect until rescinded." [CDC Guidance on proper use of face coverings and how to make your own.](#)

**May 4, 2020 – Provincetown Council on Aging provides a resource list for seniors**  
[SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS](#)

**May 1, 2020 – Governor issues Face Covering Order**

Effective Wednesday, May 6, 2020, any person over age two who is in a place open to the public in the Commonwealth, whether indoor or outdoor, and is unable to or does not maintain a distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering, except where a person is unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition or the person is otherwise exempted by Department of Public Health guidance. [See full Oder](#)

**May 1, 2020 – Free Grocery Delivery Service Launches for Barnstable County Seniors and Residents at Higher Risk.** The Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps' Delivery Service will help people who should stay home receive groceries and critical household goods. [See announcement.](#)

**May 1, 2020 – Guidance to Returning Second Homeowners**

Barnstable County along with several elected officials and the organizations that make up the County's medical system have issued [Guidance to the Cape and Islands Seasonal Community](#) members who are returning to their seasonal homes during the Covid-19 medical crisis.

**May 1, 2020 – Reopening Toolkit Resources for Businesses and Non-Profits**

The **Reopening Toolkit** is an effort by the Cape Cod & Islands SCORE mentors to provide the best thinking on how you can take steps now to help your business survive and prosper. We don't know what that looks like for your business, but we're prepared to help you think it through. SCORE mentors are available to assist you in this critical recovery period. [SMALL BUSINESS TOOLKIT](#) [NON-PROFIT TOOLKIT](#)

**April 30, 2020 – Update from the Town Manager on Parking**

Provincetown is still adhering to the Governor's Stay-at-home Advisory and therefore our parking lots are limited for Provincetown permit holders and those accessing essential services only. Provincetown is not open for business as usual. We have delayed paid public parking in our lots until June 1. Capacity in our lots may be reduced to accomplish the Town's social distancing goals. Neighborhood resident permit parking restrictions are in place. There is no parking on Commercial Street between Johnson Street and Winthrop Street.

### **April 30, 2020 - The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program (PUA).**

This program was created to help workers who don't fit into a category that would make them eligible for traditional unemployment benefits.

That includes people like independent contractors, the self-employed, and workers who participate in the gig economy. The federal government enacted the PUA program with the passage of the CARES Act, but left it to the states to implement.

Massachusetts was one of the first states to successfully launch the program and start paying claimants.

So far, the system has seen well over 100,000 applications. And as of today, nearly half a billion dollars in benefits to people who have applied. These benefits include an extra \$600 per week, part of another federal CARES Act benefit that we implemented. The PUA program also has a robust customer service component, including a call center and an online "chat bot" that helps people through common issues on the application process.

In just over a week, that PUA call center has connected with nearly 80,000 constituents over the phone, and the online help tool has helped resolve over 200,000 individual issues with people's applications. The administration will continue to pay out benefits for workers who don't qualify for traditional unemployment through the PUA program. You can learn more about this program at [www.mass.gov/pua](http://www.mass.gov/pua).

### **April 30, 2020 – State Advisory on Face Coverings**

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/advisory-regarding-face-coverings-and-cloth-masks-april-10-2020-pdf/download>

### **April 28, 2020 – Governor Extends Stay-at-Home Advisory till May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Baker-Polito Administration extends non-essential business closures to May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Gatherings of 10 or more prohibited until May 18th, Stay-at-Home Advisory remains in effect.

[Press Release](#)

### **April 28, 2020 – Select Board Approve Order to Requiring Wearing of Masks**

The Provincetown Select Board implemented an Emergency Nuisance Order requiring the use of masks to reduce risk of the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) when entering or working inside businesses and outside in public places including Commercial Street from Bangs to Pleasant Streets, which is roughly defined as the Town Center Commercial District. The Order takes effect Friday, May 1, 2020 and will remain in place until further notice.

The Provincetown Select Board voted, effective Friday, May 1st, to require all persons to wear masks when entering or working in enclosed spaces that are open to the public such as grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, etc. This also includes restaurants when picking up take-out and common areas of residential or commercial complexes with multiple units. The Order also applies to any person not within an enclosed vehicle on Commercial Street between Bangs Street and Pleasant Street (roughly defined as the Town Center Commercial District). The Order requires town businesses to post the Order at their entrance and to enforce the mask coverings within their establishment.

**The Order regarding inside spaces:** masks need to be worn when entering or working in enclosed spaces that are open to the public such as grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, restaurants (when picking up take-out) and common areas of residential or commercial complexes with multiple units. The Order requires town businesses to post the Order at their entrance and to enforce the mask coverings within their establishment.



**Public Outdoor Spaces:** as for wearing masks in public, the Order states that masks must be worn in Public Spaces including Commercial Street between Bangs and Pleasant Street. This part of the order applies to *any person not within an enclosed vehicle* on Commercial Street between Bangs Street and Pleasant Street.

The purpose is to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect your own health and the health of others. It has been documented that transmission of the virus can easily occur before someone is symptomatic and also many people unknowingly carry the virus without ever becoming ill. The virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. Thus, face coverings in public settings and where the public cannot appropriately social distance will help reduce the risk of spreading the virus to other people.

[CDC Guidance on proper use of masks and how to make your own.](#)

The Town of Provincetown has a dedicated COVID-19 webpage with additional links, resources and guidance: <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=944>

For more information, contact the Town of Provincetown at 508-413-9600.

### **April 27, 2020 - SBA Resumes Accepting PPP Applications**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will accept applications for the second round of funding of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) from lenders beginning Monday, April 27th at 10:30 am. It is critically important that small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic work with their lender to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program as soon as possible.

Businesses can access the SBA's Find A Lender tool at <https://www.sba.gov/paycheckprotection/find>. Additionally, using SBA data, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development has published [this list](#) (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/ppp-eligible-lenders-and-first-round-participants-sba-data>) of institutions that provided loans to Massachusetts companies in the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program. The list also includes all entities that appeared on the [SBA's approved lenders list](#), which was last updated on April 13, 2020.

Any small businesses in need of application translation services or other technical assistance should access Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation's online resources, including a list of technical assistance providers who can help businesses apply for PPP in languages other than English:

<https://empoweringsmallbusiness.org/resources/covid-19-small-business-resources>

### **April 27, 2020 – Update on Resources for Parents**

[COVID-19: What Parents Need To Know](#) (CBC1651) guides parents in supporting their family's health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on CDC guidelines, pamphlet:

- offers an overview of the virus
- explains risks to both adults and children
- prompts readers to create a household plan of action.

Also addresses everyday concerns, discusses pregnancy and breastfeeding issues, and encourages prevention measures, such as hygiene and social distancing. A valuable quick-reference resource for families.

[COVID-19: A Guide For Talking To Your Children](#) (CBC1650) helps parents discuss the COVID-19 virus with their children, focusing on providing reassurance while encouraging good hygiene and other germ-prevention habits. Based on CDC guidelines, pamphlet:

- provides an overview of COVID-19



- offers ways to approach the subject with children of various ages
- urges parents to answer questions honestly and accurately.

An important resource that families can keep and reference as needed.

### **April 27, 2020 – State Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures**

On Monday, April 20th, Governor Baker signed new legislation, effective immediately, that imposes a moratorium on “non-essential” evictions, and certain mortgage foreclosures, during the current State of Emergency. This much-anticipated legislation will have a significant impact upon local Housing Authorities and any other municipal entities that serve as landlords. The link to the Bill can be found here:

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H4647>

KP Law, Town Counsel for the Town of Provincetown, has summarized relevant provisions of this new legislation, Chapter 65 of the Acts of 2020, “An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID-19 Emergency” (Act), in [an eUpdate which can be found here](#).

### **April 21, 2020 – Update from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Provincetown Town Manager Robin Craver has formed the Provincetown Recovery Coalition, whose mission is to engage representative stakeholders of the major sectors of the community to advise in the development of plans that will facilitate the operation of the town and its businesses to serve residents and visitors while maintaining the health and safety of everyone during the summer and fall of 2020.

The Coalition will meet to set and address immediate, short term and long term goals on how to move the town and the business community forward through the next phases of the crisis.

The stakeholder sectors and participating individuals include:

#### Public Health/Science

- Steve Katsurinis, Board of Health Chair
- Morgan Clark, Health Director
- Dr. Andrew Jorgensen, Chief Medical Officer, Outer Cape Health

#### Public Safety, Emergency Management & Transportation

- James Golden, Police Chief
- Eric Sussman, Emergency Management/Transportation Coordinator

#### Tourism & General Business

- Anthony Fuccillo, Tourism Director
- Robert Sanborn, Provincetown Business Guild
- Patrick Patrick, Provincetown Chamber of Commerce
- Rick Murray, Community Business Leader

#### Social Services

- Gwynne Guzneau, Executive Director, Helping Our Women
- Dan Gates, President & CEO, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod

#### Town Government

- David Abramson, Chair, Select Board
- Robert Anthony, Vice Chair, Select Board
- Robin Craver, Town Manager
- David Gardner, Asst. Town Manager/Community Development Director
- Josse Young, Asst. Town Manager, Finance Director

#### Recovery Coalition Support

- Leslie Sandberg, Public Communications/Relations
- Earl Hinton, Facilitator

Stakeholders from each sector will convene with their larger groups of constituent members to assist them in developing the plans and understanding the impacts on their respective sectors. These discussions and reactions will then be reflected back to the Recovery Coalition to be incorporated into the planning process.

The Coalition is looking to recommend policies and orders that could be enacted by the Town through the Select Board, Board of Health, Licensing Board, Pier Corporation or Airport Commission, and policies that could be recommended to the Governor and State Representatives, where applicable.

They will also be looking to develop operational plans that would be broadly supported to ensure that we can maintain the effectiveness of public health and public safety while permitting residents and businesses to function as freely as possible. We expect to establish metrics to determine the impact of the plans and make corrections as necessary.

The public can provide input directly to the Recovery Coalition by emailing [coalition@provincetown-ma.gov](mailto:coalition@provincetown-ma.gov).

#### **April 21, 2020 – Update on Unemployment Benefits for the Self-Employed**

CARES Act Unemployment Benefits For Self-Employed, Gig Economy, and Other Workers ([News Release](#)) Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits can now apply online for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program.

The new federal PUA program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to those who are unable to work because of a COVID-19-related reason but are not eligible for regular or extended unemployment benefits. This includes self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and those with limited work history. Applicants can learn more and apply at [www.mass.gov/pua](http://www.mass.gov/pua).

To be eligible for this new program, individuals must provide self-certification that they are otherwise able and available to work but are prevented from doing so by circumstances relating to COVID-19, including their own illness or that of a family member.

Those able to telework with pay and individuals receiving paid sick or other leave will not qualify for PUA. Individuals receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits for less than their customary work week, however, may still be eligible for PUA. Also, those working fewer hours, resulting in a loss of income due to COVID-19, who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits may be eligible for PUA.

The federal CARES Act signed into law on March 27 created PUA, as well as another temporary federal program called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) that provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit for those receiving unemployment benefits or PUA. FPUC provides that additional benefit through July 25, 2020. The Commonwealth [announced implementation of FPUC earlier this month](#).

All approved PUA applications will initially receive the minimum weekly benefit amount, plus the additional \$600 FPUC weekly benefit. Once a worker's wages are verified, weekly benefit amounts may increase. The amount of PUA benefits received is based on the individual's reported previous income. PUA benefits may not be more than the state's maximum weekly benefit rate for regular unemployment, which is \$823 in Massachusetts.

Weekly benefits, including any increase to your weekly benefit amount, will be retroactive to January 27, 2020, or the date when you became unemployed, whichever is more recent, as long as you became unable to work because of a COVID-19 related reason.

#### **April 21, 2020 – Update on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment - Gloves**

Health experts suggest the use of gloves is not recommended personal protective equipment for the average person performing everyday tasks. The preferred method of protection remains frequent handwashing, as well as social distancing, or wearing a mask when social distancing is not practical. "In recent days it's become more common to see some people wearing latex gloves as they perform everyday tasks. But experts say that gloves don't make sense for most people to wear. Using your ungloved hands – and then washing them often – is the best bet for the typical tasks of everyday life."

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/04/10/832003425/coronavirus-faqs-do-gloves-heip-is-it-allergies-or-covid-19>. Whereas, masks at least protect others around you, gloves in this same environment don't protect you or those around you. If you do wear gloves, it is critically important that you follow a proper procedure in removing them, and by all means YOU MUST DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY, DO NOT LITTER.

#### **April 17, 2020 – Update from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Although the number of cases in Provincetown have temporarily leveled out, we are not out of the woods yet. We know from the State's modeling that the active cases in Massachusetts have not yet peaked. We should not become complacent in the fact that Provincetown's numbers have not grown significantly over the past two weeks. We need to continue to stay at home and to avoid gathering with people who are not in our social isolation group. When it is not possible to social distance, then yes we encourage you to wear mask. If you own a business where it would be difficult to maintain six feet between individuals, then please ask your customers to wear a mask for their protection and for the protection of your employees. By all accounts, social distancing is working, but we must remain diligent.

If we continue with this trend, then we can start to plan for our recovery. Following the guidance from the State and public health officials we will gradually be able to start opening our community back up in a slow and methodical way. As I have announced, I am assembling a Recovery Coalition made up of community leaders and stakeholder and we will immediately start to make a plan to unroll a phased reopening when the time is right. We cannot and will not just throw open our doors and put ourselves at further risk. I know many of you are hurting financially and maybe even emotionally, but we need to be thoughtful and we need to be cautious. Please continue to be safe and look out for your family and friends while our community starts to explore what our new normal will look like.

#### **April 17, 2020 – Update from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Link to the COVID-19 Update Report to the Select Board at the April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting on the Operational Response Activities of Town Departments

<http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/24012>

Online packet has been updated. It starts on page 5

#### **April 17, 2020 – Cape Cod National Seashore Urges Public Cooperation During COVID-**

**19.** The Seashore issued a [press release](#) urging the public to respect their seashore, follow all guidance and regulations, and act responsibly, as there has been an increase in vandalism,

dumping and regulation violations, including pets on trails, in shorebird areas, and off leash; and bicycles, dirt bikes, and ATVs on trails.

The Seashore does not have the resources during this crisis to address these careless acts. They will issue citations to those who do not follow regulations, and may be forced to close areas of the seashore if violations continue.

#### **April 17, 2020 – Update from Department of Public Works re: Yard Waste**

Please note that the Town does not pick up yard waste during curbside collection. Please refrain from putting brush and yard clippings out at the street; it will not be picked up. Curbside collection includes solid waste and single stream recycling only.

Starting on Friday April 17th, DPW will open the compost facility at the Transfer Station to Residents Only for leaves, pine needles and grass clipping disposal. No Commercial Vehicles will be allowed, no exceptions. Cut brushwood (brush) will not be accepted from neither residents nor commercial businesses until further notice.

#### **April 15, 2020 – Governor Updates Essential Services FAQs Order**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services-faqs>

#### **April 15, 2020 – Department of Public Health Issues Essential Service Worker**

**Guidelines.** In accordance with the CDC and Prevention’s guidance for critical infrastructure workers and to ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, the DPH advises that workers performing essential services that are not healthcare services (“Non-Healthcare Essential Service Workers”) may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/non-healthcare-essential-service-worker-covid-19-exposure-guidance/download>

#### **April 15, 2020 –Cape Cod Field Medical Station ([News Release](#))**

The Joint Base Cape Cod Field Medical Station supports the Administration’s strategy to increase hospital bed capacity for COVID-19 patients across the Commonwealth through the development of five regional medical facilities. Cape Cod Healthcare serves as the field hospital’s local health care partner and will manage the facility, which will house 94 beds and expects to admit patients beginning next Monday, April 20.

Medical stations, like the one being deployed to Cape Cod, are required to set up in facilities of at least 40,000 square feet to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and include beds, supplies and a cache of medicine for basic care. Alternate medical sites like this one are in place to support existing hospital capacity in the region and do not provide care for walk-in patients.

#### **April 15, 2020 - Mortgage Relief Partnership**

Twelve of the largest housing lenders will offer at least three months of deferred mortgage payments for homeowners who contact them and demonstrate they have been financially impacted by the crisis. In addition, the lenders have committed not to charge late fees, or report non-payments to the credit bureaus. Homeowners will not be required to pay back the deferred mortgage payments in a lump sum, but will instead work with lenders on an affordable repayment plan. Homeowners should reach out to their lenders.

<https://www.boston.gov/news/new-mortgage-relief-partnership-aid-homeowners-during-covid-19-pandemic>

**April 14, 2020 – Update from the Finance Department**

All Fiscal Year 2020 Second Half Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills formerly due on May 1, 2020 will now be due on June 1, 2020.

**April 14, 2020 – Update from Small Business Administration**

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOANS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Paycheck-Protection-Program-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>.

**April 13, 2020 – Provincetown Rescue Association**

The Provincetown Rescue Association appreciates community support at all times. During this difficult situation while the fire station is closed to the public, all donations may be sent to the Association at PO BOX 109 Provincetown MA 02657. Thank you and please stay safe.

**April 13, 2020 - Helpful State Links:**

[Mass.Gov/covid19](#)

[Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency  
Unemployment & COVID-19](#)

[Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)

[Emergency Childcare Site](#)

[COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)

[Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance](#)

[Stop the Spread of Germs](#)

**Social distancing:** for [youth](#) for [general audience](#)

[Coping with stress or fear](#)

**What to do** [if you are sick](#)

[10 tips for at-home quarantine or self-monitoring](#)

**April 10, 2020 – Update from the Provincetown Tourism Office**

The Tourism Office Website has been updating the calendar of events as the event organizers have notified the Town of their event changes. Click through for a list of canceled and rescheduled events [ptowntourism.com/events](http://ptowntourism.com/events). This list will be edited and update regularly.

**April 9, 2020 - A message from Provincetown Town Manager, Robin Craver**

It is during the most difficult times when we realize what matters most. So let us begin with a note of thanks to the entire Provincetown community. The generosity, care and love we are witnessing during this unprecedented time is, quite simply, profound. It gives us reason to believe wholeheartedly that when we come out of this, our families, friends, neighbors, businesses and partners will be the stronger for it.

It is also an incredibly challenging time on many fronts, including our community, our friends and guests, as well as the businesses that make our town so unique. Our first concern is for the health and safety of everyone who chooses to make Provincetown their home and we will continue to be guided by the federal, state and local health authorities to ensure the health and safety of Provincetown.



We are reaching out to let you know that our team is planning and strategizing for the days, weeks and months ahead. During this time, we are focusing on both short- and long-term action items, including safety, positioning and communication tools and strategies.

Summer 2020 will undoubtedly be different. Yet it will also be uniquely Provincetown with the amazing welcoming spirit which Provincetown was founded on 400 years ago. Visitors and friends will return to find comfort and beauty here, as well as nostalgia and peace during a quieter summer of re-entry once it is safe and advisable to do so. The distinct culture and the enthusiasm that are hallmarks of Provincetown will still be here.

We continue to be guided by the mandates and recommendations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the CDC and the WHO. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves on a daily and weekly basis. The crisis has forced organizers to make changes to some of our larger public summer events. For the latest update on events, please check [PtownTourism.com/Events](http://PtownTourism.com/Events).

Please stay safe, check on your neighbors and abide by all of the safety measures that are in place. Together, we can ensure that Provincetown comes out of these challenging times healthy, and as a welcoming haven and a joyous place.

#### **April 9, 2020 – Update from the Health Department**

It appears that Provincetown has begun to flatten the curve and that our social distancing efforts are working. Federal and state projections for Massachusetts show that the worst is yet to come with COVID-19 over the next two weeks or so. Any burdens on the healthcare system will affect all of us throughout Massachusetts, so we must continue to do our part. Please limit trips to open businesses to only what is essential. Maintain a distance of 6 feet from any non-household member and continue to wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds each time. You can wear a cloth face covering in settings where social distancing is hard to maintain – there is more information on how to make your own covering on the CDC's website. Please remember that getting exercise is important for your mental and physical health and continue to do so from a safe distance from others. The Town's website maintains many helpful links to resources including financial assistance and ways to connect while social distancing.

#### **April 9, 2020 – [Provincetown Resources Information](#)**

**Provincetown Food Resources Information.** There are several resources available for Provincetown residents needing assistance in obtaining food. Please see the [Provincetown Food Resources](#) list for information.

**Provincetown Housing Resources Information.** There are several resources available for Provincetown residents needing assistance with housing. Please see the [Provincetown Housing Resources](#) list for information.

#### **April 9, 2020 – Update from Department of Public Works re: Yard Waste**

Please note that the Town does not pick up yard waste during curbside collection. Please refrain from putting brush and yard clippings out at the street; it will not be picked up. Curbside collection includes solid waste and single stream recycling only.

Starting on Friday April 17th, DPW will open the compost facility at the Transfer Station to Residents Only for leaves, pine needles and grass clipping disposal. No Commercial Vehicles will be allowed, no exceptions. Cut brushwood (brush) will not be accepted from neither residents nor commercial businesses until further notice.



### **April 9, 2020 – Update from Eversource**

During these difficult times, we're committed to supporting our customers, neighbors and the communities where we work and live.

If you're struggling, you can get support:

- Residential customers can apply for assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund through your local Salvation Army Assistance Center.
- Business and residential customers can also contact us to set up a flexible payment plan – with no down payment – for any past-due amount.

To decrease hardship, we've also suspended disconnection of service for non-payment and eliminated late payment charges.

If you're doing OK, here's how to help your neighbors in need:

- Contribute to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund to help people in Massachusetts struggling to pay their energy bills. You can make a one-time online donation through the Salvation Army or mail your contribution.
- If someone you know personally is in need, you can pay all or a portion of their energy bill. Simply contact us with their name, service address and the payment amount. We'll provide an email to notify them of your generous gift or you can choose to remain anonymous.

What else we're doing to help:

To support critical social services provided by nonprofits, we're donating more than \$2 million through the Eversource Foundation to COVID-19 response efforts, including Family Pantry of Cape Cod

### **April 9, 2020 - Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources**

Health and government officials are working together to maintain the safety, security, and health of the American people. Small businesses are encouraged to do their part to keep their employees, customers, and themselves healthy. <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

### **April 9, 2020 - Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program**

An SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>

### **April 8, 2020 – Update from The Provincetown COVID-19 Task Force**

The Task Force has set up a stress hotline seven days a week from noon to 7pm. at 508-309-5848 staffed by local mental health professionals, Barbara Murphy, Mary Ellen Dwyer, Rita Paradise, Donna Flax and Loretta Butehorn.

### **April 8, 2020 – Update from the Water Department on Seasonal Water Services**

The Water Department continues to receive multiple daily requests for water service turn-ons. In an effort to serve the community, and protect our staff, we will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis. Our goal is zero personal contact in order to protect our staff and the public. Restaurants and food establishments are currently being turned on for take-out services. We will work with both property owners and property management firms to turn on

water service for owner-occupied buildings or units. Per the Governor's Orders, we will not be activating short term rental units or hotels. We are currently working with reduced staff, please be patient while we schedule these appointments while also maintaining day to day activities.

#### **April 8, 2020 – Update from the State**

**Nursing Home Family Resource Line:** The Governor announced the launch of a new Nursing Home Family Resource Line, a dedicated telephone line that will connect family members of nursing home and rest home residents with the information and resources they need. This resource was created so that family and community members have one central contact that they can reach out to if they have questions or concerns about the care their loved one is receiving during the COVID-19 outbreak. The line is staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM, seven days a week. Staff will coordinate across state agencies to help callers find answers to their questions. Families and community members can call the line at (617) 660-5399.

#### **April 8, 2020 - A Message from Outer Cape Health**

As the spread of COVID-19 continues on Cape Cod, individuals are being asked to reduce close contact between people, or "social distance" themselves. Outer Cape Health Services (OCHS) reminds everyone in the community to social distance at this crucial time in order to slow down the spread of the coronavirus.

And please remember: if you are not feeling well, please call us ahead and do not go out in public or enter any OCHS sites without an appointment.

**Why Social Distancing is Important:** Because COVID-19 spreads from person to person, reducing the ways people come in close contact with each other is essential. Social distancing means staying home as much as possible and avoiding crowded, public places where close contact with others is likely. For essential trips like grocery shopping, the CDC recommends staying at least 6 feet away from others and wearing a mask that covers your mouth and nose.

Social distancing is an essential way to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and help to flatten and even "bend the curve, whether you're in one of the high-risk groups or not. Social distancing may feel like an inconvenience, but it's the best way right now to protect family, friends, and neighbors. Social distancing only works if we all participate. Slowing down or preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus will ultimately save lives as the incidence of the virus peaks on Cape Cod.

**Self-isolation:** We remind you that COVID-19 can spread from person to person even before symptoms start. So, if someone in your family starts to feel even slightly ill, run down, tired, or achy, it's important to stay home and practice "self-isolation." This means limiting contact with others. If more severe symptoms develop, like a fever, cough or shortness of breath, call Outer Cape Health Services first at 508-905-2888. A provider will first ask questions by phone, and let you know if a COVID-19 test is needed.

Outer Cape Health Services remains here to serve you and the community, but we ask that you do your part. With your cooperation, we will "flatten" or even "bend the curve" together. Thank you!

For more helpful coronavirus/COVID-19 information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [click here](#).

#### **April 6, 2020 - A message from Town Manager Robin Craver**

Although yet unconfirmed by the State Examiner's Office, it appears the Town of Provincetown has experienced the first corona-related death over the weekend. Community member John Perrone passed away from complications of the virus. On behalf of the Select Board and Town Staff, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends who lost their loved one. I have dreaded this announcement for several weeks now as we all have been watching the news and knew that at some point this crisis would hit home. We also know that based on many of the modeling that we have heard from the experts, that we are still on the upswing of this fight. We can expect that many more will become inflicted with this virus over the next several weeks. Which is why it is still urgent for people again to maintain social distancing to stem the spread of the virus. We need to remember that we're all in this together, and we ask everyone to take responsibility to do their part to stop the spread of this horrible, contagious virus.

### **April 6, 2020 - Message of Hope from the Town Manager**

From a more technical side, today we have 5 active lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, and 16 cases that have been cleared from isolation and symptoms have resolved. What is being discussed less frequently is that many Provincetown residents are being tested and most are receiving negative results. There are still flu strains and common cold viruses and for all of us, a sneeze or a body ache can now be accompanied by a feeling of despair or doom. Please don't let yourself despair without reaching out for help. "The symptoms are very mild," reports one local person with a COVID-19 diagnosis, "except for the sleepiness." Of 22 lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Provincetown, almost all report generally mild flu-like symptoms. There are definitely periods of fever and fatigue and many report feeling better and then a feeling of relapse. Please know that if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 in Provincetown, the odds are that you will be sick, but most will recover.

The novel coronavirus and COVID-19 remain a serious threat to this community, but they are not the only threats. We all face the very real threats of depression, anxiety, disconnection, and other mental and emotional health issues, as well as financial issues. Our most vulnerable have lost significant pieces of their safety net. While the Town and our hardworking local agencies are working to piece together what we can from an appropriate distance, the absence is real and felt. If you are feeling powerless or wish to help, then we suggest you offer aid to these agencies. Many need cloth masks for their continued work, as do all our essential businesses, so if you are crafty then please turn those skills to a necessary cause. Everyone should remember that masks should be washed daily in soap and hot water and dried. Also, many agencies need financial support to keep their programs and clients afloat.

Please remember, the Town only has numbers for lab-confirmed cases, which may only be one piece of a larger picture of COVID-19 cases. Continue to wash your hands, stay 6 feet away from anyone who does not live in your household, and stay home as much as possible. Wear a cloth mask in public and wash regularly. In the terms of one of our community's other threats, remember, when thinking about the tagging program for sharks beware not to feel a sense of security because an untagged shark can bite you.

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from the Department of Revenue (DOR)**

The DOR released guidance extending the April 15, 2020 deadline to July 15, 2020 for personal income tax, estate and trust income tax, partnership composite returns and personal income with respect to deemed repatriated income. The guidance also extends the due date Q1 and Q2 estimated payments to July 15, 2020. While the guidance does not extend the

April 15 deadline for C-corps, the DOR is waiving late-file and late-payment penalties (although interests will still accrue). For a copy of the guidance, [click here](#).

### **April 3, 2020 – More Small Business Assistance Resources**

The US Chamber of Commerce Small Business Guide. [Coronavirus Resource Hub for Small Businesses](#)

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from the Recreation Department**

As a result of the town Recreational facilities closing, Adult and Children Programming have been postponed until further notice. We have created this page with similar virtual programs you may have participated in at the community center or helpful information.

<https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/1324/Resources>

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from GOSNOLD**

Janet Beattie is a Human Services Advocate with Gosnold serving the Provincetown community. She is currently available to assist with resources and information you may need during and after the Covid-19 crisis, including applying for Food Stamps, Fuel Assistance, Disability Benefits, Emergency Financial applications, Medicaid, Social Security, Health Insurance and/or other resource needs. All ages are welcome. Services are free and confidential. Janet can be reached at 508-487-2449, extension 6024, 9:00 am until noon daily.

### **April 3, 2020 – Update from the Health Department and Board of Health regarding the Use of Face Masks by the general public**

The Provincetown Health Department and the Board of Health have not promoted the widespread use of face masks in our community while social distancing measures are in place. Social distancing measures, and frequent handwashing, are better forms of protection from COVID-19. For those who work in essential services where social distancing measures are not always possible, face masks may help in addition to distancing as much as possible, and washing hands frequently.

[http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12829/Memo\\_Mask-Use-040320](http://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12829/Memo_Mask-Use-040320)

### **April 2, 2020 - Update Message from Town Manager Robin Craver**

A lot of people have expressed concern about access to information on the Town's website. There is a lot of information on the site and it is updated daily, and we will do our best to ensure that the information is fresh and relevant. The direct link to the COVID page is:

<https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=944>

On the Town's website, click on the [READ ON] button within the Blue Box on the homepage that says COVID-19 Information. This brings you to the COVID Page which includes the most recent Town updates, Governor's Stay-at-Home Order, Health Department COVID Information, as well as links to a host of other information.

Please understand now that we are self-isolating until May 4<sup>th</sup>. this will become a long and tedious process. There will be a slowdown in "breaking information". Sometimes no news is good news. Town Staff continue to participate in daily conference calls with State and County Health and Emergency Management Agencies. We continue to monitor the Governor's Daily briefings and will push out information as we deem useful to Town residents.

Additional information can be obtained at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.Mass.gov](http://www.Mass.gov) and [www.barnstablecountyhealth.org](http://www.barnstablecountyhealth.org)

If you have not already signed up for the **Alert System**, please do so at <https://alerts.provincetown-ma.gov>. To information on Town Government operations call the Town Business Hotline at 508-413-9600 or the Department directly.

### **April 2, 2020 – Update on How to Volunteer Locally**

Locally, volunteer efforts on the ground are being coordinated by the Provincetown COVID-19 Taskforce on both medical and non-medical fronts. You can reach out to them directly at [pc19taskforce@gmail.com](mailto:pc19taskforce@gmail.com)

### **April 2, 2020 – Small Business Administration COVID-19 Resources**

Here are some state run assistance programs for [Massachusetts](#).

### **April 2, 2020 – Business Assistance for Cape Cod Businesses**

[Local resources](#) for Cape Codders by Cape and Plymouth Business. Includes great local resources for childcare and housing assistance.

### **April 1, 2020 Message from Town Manager Robin Craver**

As the frustration levels within the community start to grow, please understand that Town staff is doing everything in our power to maintain critical infrastructure and services, while at the same time trying to be mindful and proactive about the needs of Town residents. I know many of you have expressed concern that the Town government is not doing enough to prepare; to belay your concerns about what's to come; to communicate what we know and what we do not yet know. As a lifelong public servant, I understand the need to be responsive and accessible to the public. I will continue to strive to do that to the best of my ability and will expect the same of my staff.

Please recognize that Town staff are also human beings, that we are living through this same crisis, trying to adapt to new challenges and anticipate what's next. We also are susceptible to getting sick and have families that we need to care for. We are all experiencing the same challenges; we are all doing our best.

Town government has limited resources, limited personnel, and limited supplies. We continue to work closely with the emergency management and public health systems within the State and the County. We are in communication and working regularly with non-profit organizations and social service agencies in Town to ensure that the needs of our most vulnerable residents get the care and assistance they need.

Unfortunately, we are not able to be everything to everyone during this crisis, but we will do our best to listen to your concerns and where we are able to right the ship and make adjustments in our levels of service, we will do that as efficiently and expeditiously as we are able with the resources available to us. Thank you for your patients, please remain Provincetown Strong.

### **April 1, 2020 Update regarding Short Term Rental Compliance**

In our efforts to be compliant with the Governor's Order, the Town has sent a notice to all known short term rentals and licensed lodging facilities. The Town has also reached out to many of the on-line rental platforms asking for their assistance and compliance. VRBO and Homeaway have agreed to put banners at the top of all searches of Provincetown rentals stating the Governor's current Order is in effect at least until May 4<sup>th</sup> and linking a copy of the Order. Additionally, they will be emailing each renter listing on their sites in the 02657 area code with a copy of the Order. We are currently reaching out to other on-line platforms asking



for the same level of cooperation. If we are unable to get cooperation from a specific platform town staff will be reaching out directly with a compliance message regarding short-term rentals to every listing on the site which will include a link to the Governor's order. If the Governor extends the order/guidelines past the current expiration date we will reach out to the on-line platforms ensuring that they extend their mitigation tools to whatever date the Governor, or Provincetown Board of Health, determines to be appropriate. As always our goal is to seek compliance, but the Town will do what it is necessary to remain in compliance with the Governor's directives and to protect the health of Town residents.

#### **April 1, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation**

The Provincetown Public Pier Corporation has **postponed the Public Hearing scheduled for April 2, at 2pm until the State of Emergency is over.** This meeting was to discuss the upcoming season's new policies, adjusted and changed rates and leads us into new dock/berth assignments for the newly constructed floating docks and some on the fixed piers. The PPPC will re-notice the hearing once a new date is chosen.

#### **April 1, 2020 Mass Cultural Council Resources for Artists & Cultural Workers**

We know that the COVID-19 crisis has caused major disruptions for the careers of individuals who earn income through their work in the cultural sector. In response, we will launch (pending final approval by our governing Council on April 7, 2020) a relief fund for individuals. [Read More](#)

#### **April 1, 2020 Mass Cultural Council Resources for Cultural Organizations**

Mass Cultural Council is providing a 3-pronged package of support for our cultural nonprofit organizations to not only understand and access assistance offered through new Federal Acts, but to also deliver broad and high-touch capacity building services to help organizations in understanding their current financial challenges and crafting a strategy forward. [Read More](#)

#### **March 31, 2020 Update from Governor Baker**

Governor extends the Stay-at-Home Order and Closing of Non-essential Business Activity timeline to May 4, 2020. Ordering everyone to continue to self-isolate and practice social distancing through that time period.

Business list of essential activities. The Governor has directed DPH to provide clarity that hotel, motels and short term rentals are to be used for limited purposes only related to the provision of essential services and for the temporary housing of essential employees. Short term rentals may no longer be booked for vacation or recreational purposes. People should be staying at home and not vacationing.

#### **March 31, 2020 Housing Resource Links**

**Housing Resources.** Here is the forwarded link from Dana at the Citizen's Housing and Planning Center in regards to assistance with housing.

<https://www.chapa.org/housing-courses/covid-19-immediate-assistance>.

From Mass Law Reform Institute (MLRI): For more about what tenants should do if they are facing an emergency see [link to illegal eviction information](#). The information is also available as a [handout](#).

#### **March 30, 2020 Update from Board of Health**

### **Important information on lodging during this public health emergency:**

The Provincetown Board of Health offers its interpretation of the Governor's March 23, 2020 Emergency Order for non-essential businesses to cease in-person operations.

Under the Governor's Order, travel for tourism or vacation is not an essential activity and accordingly, short-term rentals and services related to those rentals such as AirBnB and VRBO are not permitted. Licensed hotels and inns are permitted to be open as the Governor has deemed hotel workers essential. Travel is restricted in Massachusetts to those whose travel is for essential activities only.

If an inn is open and there is a confirmed or presumed/diagnosed positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, the Health Department may close the facility to protect the health and well-being of everyone and those on site may be ordered to quarantine until everyone there is clear of the virus. We appreciate the degree which the guesthouses, inns and hotels have acted voluntarily to help fight the spread of this disease. All of us are called to follow the Governor's Order and reduce the rate of infection.

While we expect the Governor to extend his Order, if the Governor's Order does not extend until April 30<sup>th</sup>, then the Provincetown Board of Health will reissue its local Order to cease non-essential business until April 30, 2020. This is an ever-changing situation and we understand that our licensees are looking for clarity and certainty. At this time the best we can offer is that bookings for travel or other non-essential services should not occur until May 1, 2020 at the earliest, although this may be extended based on the situation as it unfolds. We will be constantly monitoring the situation to allow short-term rentals at the earliest date that doesn't compromise the health and safety of the town.

### **March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Town Manager**

#### **Message regarding second homeowners and working as a community**

During a State of Emergency it is absolutely critical that the community comes together in support of a unified response to the COVID-19 crisis. There is much discussion on social media about residents, non-residents, year rounders and second homeowners. These labels and social media conversations are causing fear and discord at a time when we need care, compassion and unity. As far as the administration is concerned we are one community and we will do our utmost to care for everyone regardless of their residency status or birthright.

Of course we are concerned about critical capacities in our emergency response, public safety, and health care facilities, but now is not the time to draw distinctions, create classes and label individuals. Town staff, first responders and essential service employees have all stepped up and are doing their best to care for all those in need. We are monitoring the local positive cases daily and to date they are doing well and have their needs being cared for. They are all quarantined and sheltering in place.

It is absolutely critical that all members on the community shelter in place except for when they are providing or obtaining essential services, and when doing so, practice social distancing. Personal responsibility and safe practices will keep you safe. Self-isolate, wash your hands, practice social distance. If you are sick, stay home and monitor your symptoms and reach out to your primary health provider by phone when needed. This is a very scary time and we all need to maintain calm and show compassion and care to those around us regardless of who they might be.

### **March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Transfer Station**

This is a critical time for our nation with unprecedented closures of businesses and social activities to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Your staff at the transfer station are doing their part by limiting services to essential activities. We understand the importance of moving your household waste and recyclables to keep your home clean and sanitized. However, at this time we are not accepting yard waste as it requires frequent interaction between our staff and the public including an exchange of business coupons and cash. We understand this is an inconvenience for both our residents and business partners and apologize for this limited moratorium. We ask that residents hold their yard waste or compost on site and suggest our business partners reach out to other vendors regarding disposal areas. We again apologize for this inconvenience and ensure you that we will resume this service as soon as appropriate.

**March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Airport.**

**Provincetown Airport Closed April 1 to April 30 for scheduled construction**

Due to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandated runway/taxiway improvement project, the Town of Provincetown will temporarily close Provincetown Municipal Airport (PVC) from Wednesday, April 1, through Thursday, April 30, 2020.

**March 30, 2020 Update from the Transportation Coordinator**

Both P & B and Peter Pan Bus Company have suspended service to town. The CCRTA is supplementing for the Peter Pan routes with two new services from Provincetown to Hyannis 6 days a week. <http://www.capecodtransit.org/>

**March 30, 2020 Update from the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation**

The PPPC Public Hearing to review Harbor Regulations, Dock allocation Process and Policies and the impact on future categories affecting rates is still on schedule for this Thursday April 2nd at 2pm at this time. Check online agenda for call-in information.

Kayak rack permit sales are being postponed until April 30th or later as we attempt to work on being able to sell and assign on line or via phone. The same goes for the dinghy dock and beach boat permits.