

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH CALL 10/16/2020



Announcements:

Carpooling: How to be safe while doing this. Evaluations have found that workplace outbreaks could be due to this/break rooms. More information distributed on 10/15 in the DPH call reminder.

Possible Scam: Individuals are going into business with official looking ID badges and suggesting to business owners that they need to buy a workplace safety poster, and if they don't they will be fined. Chief Farnsworth shared this news with police force, so they are aware about this scam. AG's office is also aware of this.

ABCC: **Reminding restaurants and hotels.** If a restaurant is working with normal operations, there is no capacity limit as long as seats are 6 ft apart from each other. But, this changes if they host an event (wedding, post-funeral) and they then become limited to the indoor (max 25 people) and outdoor gathering standards. If this event is being held in a different room, they can still operate as a restaurant. If they don't have a function room, and they host the event in their main dining room, then you are limited to 25 people with no exceptions. You also cannot place ropes to separate the space, it needs to be a proper room. Performances—standards are different if you're in Step 1-Step 2. Step 2 standards--Restaurant can host an indoor performance (ticketed event/advertised, where people are coming to the venue for a performance) following performance venue requirements but cannot provide food as a regular restaurant.

CTC: Still working on outreach and education. Given out 10s of thousands of giveaway items like providing masks and hand sanitizer. Supporting virtual town hall meetings. Virtual town halls were successful in the spring and continuing this work in the fall. Reach out if you want support about this. We also have a toolkit that has a planning brief, timelines, and identifying appropriate participants for the event. There is also a CTC working group that meets on Wednesdays to talk about different initiatives, such as virtual town halls. We need your input to make sure we address your needs during these meetings so please reach out. Also, there has been an additional task force to identify behaviors and activities that are contributing to spreads, such a hockey, places of worship, and small social gatherings. We are working to aggregate this information to help gather an understanding of what is contributing to spreading. We want to supplement your work. We've also upped our staff and will be adding additional staff. If you have anyone in your town/family/circle who is interested in working with the CTC send them our way. Go to PIH.org for information about joining the team. Looking for individuals with second languages, we are open 8am-8pm 7 days a week.

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Update to DPH LBOH weekly calls: Target date 10/27 to do webinars instead of calls. Still have a call-in number if you cannot join the webinars. This allows us an opportunity to provide visuals to help answer questions. Similar to the MAVEN training.

Stop the Spread: These testing sites will go on until January 15th. All of the sites have agreed to continue testing until January. Available to all residents, regardless of their ability to pay, do not need insurance, do not need referrals from physicians to get tested.

CARES Act meeting for those in Plymouth County: On 10/22 at 3:00 pm. If you have questions about how to join the call, reach out to Cheryl Sbarra (sbarra@mahb.org). We highly recommend you join this webinar.

Questions from emails:

Q: Needle shortage and availability of flu vaccines—some boards of health having trouble maintaining their supplies. Also, how can LBOHs order more vaccine?

A: We know these shortages are real, but we haven't received news from officials that there are shortages in the supply chain. Plenty of vaccines to still order, but State supply is only for 18 and under and uninsured adults.

Q: Salons and other businesses opening their coat rooms?

A: No answer yet.

Q: Can a restaurant have 250 attendees if they are holding a performance?

A: They have to follow [performance guidelines](#) and cannot allow for table service (food and beverage) and need to meet the spacing and capacity requirements.

Q: Can food be served behind the bar if there is no “active” work area?

A: Yes. If they are delivering the food and then leaving that area. Cannot be cleaning/stacking glasses, preparing bar etc.

Q: Can hospitals and any workplace offer self-serve coffee for employees only? What about college dining halls?

A: No. Only retail setting allows this.

Q: School band—allowed to practice indoors? Brass and woodwinds allowed in doors, and singing too?

A: As stated in guidance for [courses requiring additional safety considerations for fall 2020](#), recently updated on 10/13, on the website. Brass and woodwinds instruments to be done indoors with masking encouraged with 10 ft of distance between individuals if in-person school

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is occurring. Still encouraged to do as much of this online. But these activities can continue outdoors. For chorus/musical theatre, this can still occur with masks on and 10 ft separated but only outdoors. Singing is not allowed indoors.

Q: What options do schools have when children are not vaccinated and then an outbreak happens? Do those unvaccinated students need to stay home?

A: Working on this. Hoping to have more information about this in the next couple of weeks.

Q: If a resident tested positive and completed isolation and decided to travel to a higher risk start within the 90 days, do they need to quarantine and be tested when they return?

A: Travel advisory does not specifically address this, but we recommend that this is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If a LBOH has proof or if the person has proof of a positive lab test within the last 3 months, then we don't recommend them having to quarantine/isolate.

Questions from callers:

Q: Advice on what LBOH can do when private citizens are trying to organize trick-or-treat activities? LBOH sent a letter to the Board and Town Administrator about how they do not support traditional trick-or-treat but can offer trunk-or-treat. But the community next door is posting on their social media page that people should email them for a list of places that will allow trick-or-treating.

A: Trick-or-treating isn't being banned, but there are ways to do it. CDC and DPH guidance provides ideas on how to participate in Halloween in a different way. LBOH can reinforce how there are less hazardous ways to participate in Halloween and encourage others to follow the guidance.

Q: Local park, lots of different activities going on and the school is hosting a running meet. How many people can gather in one location? There are reports of over 100 people there during a meet. Haverhill is in the red.

A: We need to defer to EEA and MIAA, but road races are not allowed right now according to youth and amateur sports. Regardless, people who are congregating at a point need to also be socially distanced. We will loop back with you about this.

Q: Any restrictions on number of people who can gather in a place of worship during services/worship?

A: No hard cap, but there is a 50% maximum occupancy (if occupancy is formally documented) or 10 people / 1,000 sq feet.

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Q: Do ice and street hockey players need to wear masks at all times when playing the game?

A: [Section 4 for safety standards](#) for youth and adult amateur sports. It says that participants and coaches/referees etc. they need to wear masks except for high intensity activities in the water, or where they can be appropriately spaced, or cannot wear a face mask due to a medical condition. There is a very specific reference to hockey. Technically this can be read that hockey players do not need to wear the face coverings the entire time, but the problem is when they become closer than 6ft during play and this is where they need to wear them.

Q: Family of 4 who are all positive. Sociable family and refusing to give LBOH any close contact information. We were approached by other people who know the family is positive and who have been in close contact and now they are quarantining, but can we give any fines for this to that family?

A: Yes, cease and desist and using the [comprehensive template on MAHB](#) on the MGL Ch. 122 and MGL Ch. 123 nuisance statute where Ch. 123 allows you to fine them up to a \$1,000 a day. This would be possible, but if all else fails, you could technically also issue a restraining order against them but you need to check in with legal counsel about this. You could also visit them with the police.

Q: Houses of worship: If you have a 5,000 sq ft area, and the occupancy has been listed for 300 people, do we recommend they only allow 50 people or 50% of the 300 listed occupancy?

A: If they have a permitted occupancy, then they can use the 50%. The 10 people / 1,000 sq ft is really only for buildings where no occupancy number is on record. But at 50% occupancy you are still required to adhere to social distancing.

Q: Organized card games and karaoke? If they bring their own mics to the karaoke bar and they're 20 ft apart from others can they sing? And dances at adult entertainment clubs? My understanding is that venues are allowed while wearing masks and no lap dancing?

A: Any type of activity with shared equipment (cards) is not allowed. If the town is in Step 2 (not red), they are allowed to have entertainment and we don't draw the line at adult entertainment, but interactive entertainment is not allowed. No lap dances, magicians bringing people on stage etc. Singing is not allowed indoors for step 1 or step 2.