

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH CALL 10/9/2020



Announcements:

Halloween: Additional safety tips posted on [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov), pretty much the same material as what is found on CDC. Ex. what are lower risk / higher risk activities for Halloween.

Flu awareness campaign: [Link](#) to these resources sent to you on Wednesday. Posters that can be printed out.

MAVEN: If you have questions, there are [weekly office hours](#) from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, there is also a help section on MAVEN for [documents](#) and trainings. Also a phone number: 617 983 6801 and email address (will send this out later). These are great resources if you have questions.

MHOA has selected DLS for the Hillard Award.

Questions from emails:

Q: Can facilities host multiple events at the same time? Sometimes a facility will have a general restaurant area, can these areas be open while the facility is hosting a performance/event in another room in a facility?

A: Restaurant scenario: could have an event or performance outdoors while they continue to run their regular restaurant operations indoor. Similarly, they could have a comedian outdoors. If the same restaurant has a separate dedicated space like a function room, the same rules would apply. They could host an event or a performance in a separate room. Cannot hold two performances or events at the same time. For a banquet facility: Can only run one event at a time indoor and outdoor. Cannot be the same event, such as a wedding indoor and outdoor. But you can have a comedian outdoors while you have the wedding outdoor.

Q: Latest restaurant guidance prohibits darts or pool being played in restaurant area. Does this mean bingo is not allowed?

A: Correct, games need to be in a separate area from where dining and drinking is occurring. You could host bingo or another type of event but this would require it to follow event requirements.

Q: Stationary cycling class being held outside. Bicycles were stationed 6 ft apart without barriers, they thought because they were outside they didn't need to be 14 ft apart or have plexiglass barriers.

A: Checked fitness center standards, didn't see anything about closer distancing just because a class was being held outdoors. The 14ft would still apply in this case.

Q: Talking allowed during mask break in a school?

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A: In September 21st [FAQ document](#), number 6, is about how mask breaks should be conducted. 2 mask breaks per day, but this is a local decision. If this break is during mealtime, then they would obviously be talking during this time. Some schools may host another break and choose to not allow them to talk, but this would be up to the individual school to decide if talking is allowed.

Q: Can a classroom set up adjoining desks so it's separated by a Plexiglas barrier so they can work together, like reading buddies?

A: Document ([August 26th](#)) has information about setting up barriers/partitions. They can work together if they are separated by barriers but they do need to adhere to social distancing with a minimum of 3 ft.

Q: A charter school in the community has an open campus, there are reports of these students meeting outside of school without masks. Is the school responsible for what they are doing outside of school hours?

A: This is an example where the LBOH and school administrators need to work together for how to determine the best course of action for addressing this issue.

Q: Where are you gathering your population projections to inform your data collection?

A: [Donahue Institute](#) population estimates, we will send out a link to this.

Q: Resources for high-risk communities?

A: This is on [the mass.gov website](#). We will send out a link to this. There are materials in there and tools that can be used by anybody.

Questions from callers:

Q: We have moved from green to yellow and now in red. A bit of clarification necessary for town leadership for what we need to do. Town administrators think we need to go back a step, but I thought we can stay until we have three rounds of data placing us in a different category.

A: You are correct. I am happy to message this to your town officials, we can talk offline about what is happening to your community specifically. If you moved forward to Step 2, you need to look at 3 weeks of posting, red for 3 weeks, before you need to go back to Step 1. If you are in yellow or green for 3 weeks, then you can go back to Step 2.

Q: Plymouth Plantation, does serve a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, can they do this? Can they do group seating like at a wedding? I told them no.

A: They need to follow restaurant requirements such as number of people at a table and spacing.

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Q: Can restaurants that have a music room/venue have singers? I've been told they can have singers with Plexiglass. Drive-through truck-or-treat event is permitted as long as there as max 100 volunteers working the event, and if people didn't exit their cars and left their windows up?

A: Singing is not permitted in indoor performances still, in a restaurant or other venue. Trunk-or-treat, email me (DLS).

Q: Max number of people that can be in a polling place?

A: We sent out information about this, will resend it. This has been exempted from the gathering size limits for indoors. Still need to wear masks and be socially distanced. You don't want them crowding.

Q: Positive cases that come back positive again a month later. Do they need to re-isolate? At what point do we assume reinfection or not?

A: Dr. Brown is not on the phone today. We will send this answer out during the email update.

Q: Where is the state on preparing paramedics to give out flu vaccines?

A: We will need to find this information by connecting with the Immunization Division.

Q: Going between Steps in Phase 3. If your community was red for 3 weeks, you go back to Step 2. When does this step back need to take place after this decision is made?

A: Will follow up with you.

Q: In Somerset, we are having paramedics do flu shots and this was a local health initiative. Flu shots and Halloween treats--is it okay to pass out pre-packaged treats to the kids?

A: Yes, that is okay.

Q: Indoor pools—how many swimmers can be in a pool at a time? Class swimmers start at each end of the pool, and they swim towards each other, do a somersault at the end, and then swim back, so they are passing each other at least twice in the same 7.5 ft lane. Can they do this?

A: We do have information in the sector specific standards that does include swimming pools that mentions occupancy limits, but we will ask EEA about this.

Q: Interscholastic athletics for the boarding schools, if both schools do testing and have a competition with each other and masks are worn the entire time, and then they find that a positive player is on either one of the teams, and then they are notified after the game, does the entire team need to isolate and be considered a close contact of the infected player?

A: Boarding schools might want to look at the MIAA guidance even though they are an independent league, but this is an EEA question and EEA is not on the call today. Close contacts,

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it depends. It depends on the sport, how long they interacted with each other.

Maybe one part of the team didn't interact with the infected player, this is also case dependent. Be mindful about the rules we use around 6 ft and 15 minutes, but also take into consideration what type of sport was being played. For example, were they breathing heavily with this person for 15 minutes?