

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH WEBINAR 11/2/2020



## Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Michael Flanagan, Department of Labor Standards

***This webinar does not have the typical staff online because it's centered more around the Governor's Orders***

### **Announcements:**

*Governor's Orders (effective Friday, 11/6, at 12:01 am) #53 (Early closing and alcohol order), #54 (Further revised gatherings order), #55 (revised face coverings order) and Stay at Home advisory:* All residents are advised to stay at home between the hours of 10pm – 5am. Only allowed to leave to go to work or school, or for essential needs such as seeking emergency medical care, going to the grocery store, or picking up medications. If you do leave home maintain 6 ft distance from others and wear masks. Use remote modes of communication instead of visiting friends and family.

**#53:** 9:30 pm – 5:00 am--doesn't apply to religious services or political demonstrations. Businesses other than retail that are open to the public must close during those hours.

**Applicable sectors in the order.** Restaurants may continue to sell take-out food with non-alcohol beverages, but no diners may be seated or served—9:30 pm isn't last call, it is a hard stop. No serving or sale of alcohol (packie stores, liquor stores) or sale of adult-use cannabis during the closing period.

**#54:** Gathering limits and requiring social distancing of at least 6 ft at all events (except between members of the same household). At private residences, no more than 10 people who do not live in the household. Outdoors, no more than 25 people. Gatherings at **event venues** (if they are selling tickets, or renting it out, or a non-routine event venue, such as an estate who rents out the land for a wedding, this is an event venue) or in public spaces—indoors no more than 25. Higher risk communities—not more than 50 (outside number). Lower risk communities—not more than 100 (outside number). Indoors—no more than 25 no matter the risk designation. If event exceeding 50 people is organized in lower-risk community, the event or venue must notify LBOH at least a week in advance, if possible (sometimes you can't give a notice, for example a funeral). All gatherings, no matter the size or location, must end and people must disperse by 9:30 pm—exceptions are religious gatherings and political gatherings. For wedding ceremonies, these rules would not apply, but the rest of the event surrounding the

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## *MDPH/LBOH WEBINAR 11/2/2020*

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wedding would not be considered a religious gathering. Bat and Bar mitzvahs are the same. Exceptions: school hosted events, legislative bodies.

Host and event venues must notify LBOH if they learn an attendee or worker tests positive, must cooperate with contact tracing, including addresses and providing lists of attendees upon request. Penalties—civil fine of up to \$500, each individual over the gathering size limit constitutes a separate violation. For example, you have 100 people there. It's not only \$500 total, it's \$500 per person. The penalty can be issued against the owner of a private residence, and issued against the owner/lessee with legal control of the property. Any person, business, or organization that allows gathering to be conducted in violation of the order will be assessed.

**#55:** All persons over the age of 5 must wear a face covering whenever in public, indoors or outdoors. Required when carpooling with non-household members. Exclusion for social distancing has been removed. It used to be that you do not need to wear a mask if you're beyond 6 ft of a person, but now you still have to wear the mask. Children between ages 2-5 years are encouraged, but not required to wear the face coverings. Medical and other exemptions still apply, but there are some changes. Employers can require employees to provide proof of exempted conditions, schools may require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such medical or disabling condition. Enforcement by DPH LBOH with assessment from state and local police with fines up to \$300.

DLS, CTC, and LBOH went through 112 cluster investigations and worked with the companies that identified these clusters, in several of these cases, at least half-dozen, most likely cause of cluster and continued spread of disease was carpooling.

*No current end date on these orders.*

### **Questions from emails:**

**Q:** Alcohol sales being banned entirely?

**A:** Alcohol sales are not banned entirely, only after 9:30 pm until they can reopen the following day.

**Q:** Mask orders while at the gym?

**A:** EEA making adjustments to this.

**Q:** How will the new indoor gatherings limit of 10 impact schools, after school programs, etc.?

**A:** Excludes all public and private elementary and secondary schools, school sponsored events not impacted.

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## *MDPH/LBOH WEBINAR 11/2/2020*

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**Q:** Do patrons of restaurants need to vacate by 9:30 pm in order to meet the spirit of the Stay at Home advisory, or can they allow guests to remain after 9:30 pm, but not allow new customers in?

**A:** Restaurants must close to in-door dining at 9:30, people need to go after this, but you can still provide take-out and delivery after 9:30 pm.

**Q:** What about the Mass Pike rest areas?

**A:** No answer to this right now.

**Q:** If a church has a youth group event at their facility, and it's on Friday nights, are they allowed to go past 9:30 pm if they have worship that goes beyond 9:30pm? I know they are houses of worship but does the new Stay at Home order advisory or venue apply?

**A:** If they are participating in a religious service, like midnight mass, then this is allowed. If a youth group meeting is held for educational purposes, religious or otherwise, not allowed.

**Q:** Is it the LBOH's responsibility to get these new orders out to all businesses or is this their responsibility to know?

**A:** Efforts are made to get this type of information out, it will be posted online, and you are always welcomed to share these resources with your local businesses. You are not obligated to let them know. We also send this information to other state stakeholders who communicate with businesses.

**Q:** Do retail food markets need to close at 9:30 pm too?

**A:** No.

**Q:** If you have thanksgiving at your house you can only have 10 people, but if you rent a house you can have 25?

**A:** Not talking about a rental house, this is more about a restaurant or a place sponsoring a Thanksgiving dinner. We don't believe it applies to an Airbnb for example.

**Q:** Driving from low risk to high risk communities, any guidance on this?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Can LBOH protect themselves from enforcing this order? Is police assistance available to support LBOH?

**A:** Local and state law enforcement can support you, but speak to them in advance so you can settle an arrangement.

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## *MDPH/LBOH WEBINAR 11/2/2020*

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**Q:** If you're walking your dog in a neighborhood even if you're not near anybody or areas like town hall that are not open to the public, do you still need to wear a mask at all times?

**A:** Yes, still required. These are not replacing sector specific standards.

**Q:** Is the fine contingent on local municipalities if they choose to not apply the fine?

**A:** You have the authorization to do this via the Governor's orders.

**Q:** Office spaces and wearing masks all day long even in open spaces?

**A:** Going to need to clarify this. There are some sector specific exemptions, may make some modifications around the face masks requirements.

**Q:** Dining halls?

**A:** They've had to follow the restaurant standards so they are also not allowed to have sit-in service after 9:30 pm, but can provide take-out and delivery.

**Q:** Municipal sports and recreation programs required to meet indoor gathering requirements?

**A:** All gatherings inside need to meet this requirement, unless specifically exempt, and Parks and Rec programs are not.

**Q:** Face coverings and requesting for medical documentation?

**A:** Allowed to ask school students attending in-school classes, and employers are allowed to ask employees to provide documentation for these exemptions for the workplace. The order does not allow the average person to ask their patron or employee for medical documentation.

**Q:** If a restaurant is hosting an event, are they required to keep a list of attendees and event information?

**A:** Yes, need to be able to provide that list at the request of LBOH or CTC working under LBOH's authority. This host/event venue must provide this information to assist with the investigation.

**Q:** Recreational fitness venues where people go after hours, do people still need to wear masks?

**A:** These venues are not allowed to be open. Gyms need to be staffed.

**Q:** Campgrounds not able to have overnight guests?

**A:** Campgrounds and other types of lodging do not need to close at 9:30 pm, but they can't host events.

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## *MDPH/LBOH WEBINAR 11/2/2020*

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**Q:** Retail establishments that can stay open, and how does this affect their alcohol sales vs restaurants' sale of alcohol?

**A:** Restaurants close to in-person dining by 9:30 pm and diners need to disperse. They can continue to sell take-out and delivery food, but no alcohol beverages. Similarly, retail establishments can remain open after 9:30 pm but need to cease alcohol sales, same thing as cannabis stores.

**Q:** Poll workers need to wear face masks?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Other types of mask exemptions?

**A:** Someone who needs a lip reading.

**Additional questions please email: [Michael.j.coughlin@mass.gov](mailto:Michael.j.coughlin@mass.gov)**