

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH WEBINAR 12/22/2020



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management
- Michael Flanagan and Mary Dozois, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt and Anne Gilligan, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Samantha Phillips, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Amy Kershaw, Erica Hansson, Alana Davidson, and Jhana Wallace, Department of Transitional Assistance

Announcements:

Temporary revisions to COVID-19 Measures: These are TEMPORARY from 12/16 until 1/10—could be extended beyond this, but TBD. You will not see revised sector specific standards on the website, instead there will be a banner at the top of the site that refers to these measures.

Notable: Capacity limit will now apply to restaurants, 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 sq ft as an alternative to 25%. This is not an either-or, it's an alternative if you don't have formal occupancy numbers. Employees and staff are exempted from the capacity count.

The 25% limit will not apply to manufacturing, laboratories, drive-in movie theaters, or construction.

Indoor event venues reduced to 10 people. Outdoor event venues reduced to 25 people. Current limits at private residences remain the same (10 indoors and 25 outdoors). Limits at movie theatres will be reduced to 25% (no more than 50 people per theatre). Outdoor performance venues will remain 25% (with the max numbers 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. 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.

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Sector	Current Capacity Limit	New Limit
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%

Questions about sports: EEA is reviewing these revisions and will be sending out information shortly. No new information about sports.

Q: Do capacity limits apply to a particular setting? What type of offices?

A: Besides restaurants, if the capacity applied previously at 40%, then it still applies now but at 20%. If your office space had an exemption beforehand, then it still has the exemption.

School vaccine update: Being sent out right now to schools. DPH just received this right as we started the presentation. Original deadline was December 31st, 2020 and the deadline has been

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extended through February 28th, 2021 to get the flu vaccine. Most students have already received the vaccine, but still missing of course. Schools in school districts can still implement other types of vaccination requirements as you find appropriate, but it's really important that families are connected to district resources to facilitate access for vaccinations. If families cannot receive the vaccine from a clinic, school nurses can fill this role. Updated information: www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations

CTC: 1,800 people now working with them. Allows CTC to be able to meet 24 hour time frame for initial outreach. Outreach is about 80% successful, prior to the surge we were about 92% successful. Last couple of days running a 2-way SMS campaign, that allows individuals to communicate with us via SMS during isolation/quarantine period, if they need additional support they can opt in to get a referral from our Care Coordinators. Since this campaign went live, 50% of all cases and contacts have opted in, 4000 people so far. Care Resource Coordination referrals are also being contacted in 24 hour window as well. Also, 3k – 3,5k cases per day being received at CTC.

First responder vax clinics: Not a request to standup first responder's vaccination clinics. But if you have done it in the past, and are willing to stand one up, then send us an application. We are looking for this information no later than tomorrow. We will use this information to map out where there is coverage across the Commonwealth. There are multiple proposals from overlapping areas too. Trying to figure out where there are gaps, you will receive outreach from OPEM regional contact/coordinators. We will let you know whether or not your proposal has been accepted to do this planning, probably by the beginning of next week.

Q: Where to find standing orders or VIS?

A: VIS haven't been prepared yet Moderna vaccine. Copies for Pfizer under "[COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Providers.](#)" Standing Order categories also found there.

Command Center Food Security Team: This is a brand new program. We will adapt as we learn more. Proposal to address food security needs of isolating and quarantining individuals/families. CTC/LBOH have identified food security as a top concern for a portion of those individuals/families quarantining/isolating due to COVID-19.

Challenges include:

- Availability and quantity of nutritious, culturally appropriate food, along with access to other basic needs such as prescriptions, diapers, cleaning supplies and PPE.

- Reliable, consistent transportation or delivery options, especially in certain neighborhood/areas.

- No or limited delivery options from food pantries (all volunteer, limited staff, limited hours). Municipalities vary in delivery options—some have existing pathways, many don't.

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Some municipalities are happy with the food programs they have, we aren't trying to replace your existing programs, but instead fill in areas where you might need support.

Designed to provide food assistance to a subset of the total number of individuals in isolation/quarantine with food security needs (estimated at approx. 6%).

Eligibility for participation to be determined by LBOH/CTC/Care Coordinators based on: Limited financial resources/unable to work due to isolation/quarantine; No friend or family support to purchase and/or deliver food.

The program will work from a menu of solutions, which could include food boxes, grocery cards, transportation, and potentially, prepared meals.

Phase 1: Grocery cards and food boxes will be made available to local municipalities, LBOH, and CTC to distribute as needs are identified via current referral pathways with municipalities or other referral systems.

Phase 2: Where needed, delivery and distribution solutions will be developed and deployed.

Phase 3: If needed, revised/adapted as roll out proceeds and needs change.

Requests for assistance/resources will go through Municipal EMDs. Individuals will also be connected to federal food assistance programs (SNAP, WIC, School Meals) to support longer term food security requests. We do have food boxes available right now, most of them are shelf stable foods, and ideally have the food boxes and grocery cards to mix and match. Food boxes (20 lb. box) include, but are not limited to: apple sauce, peanut butter, pasta/pasta sauce, beans/rice, milk (instant/dry), tuna, soup (condensed), oatmeal, canned vegetables.

Grocery Cards in \$50 increments: Grocery stores with delivery options within geographic area served by the LBOH/CTC can be provided directly to households and can be used to order groceries on behalf of a quarantining/isolating household. Number of cards to be provided based on household size/need as determined by LBOH/CTC.

EMDs will be surveyed to quickly gather: Current efforts to meet food security/basic needs of those in quarantine and isolation; Current challenges to meet food security/basic needs of those in quarantine and isolation; Supports needed to better meet the food security/basic needs of those in quarantine and isolation; Key local contact on food access/security issues.

What we need for you: Work with your local EMD or other locally identified contact to communicate resources needed for quarantining and isolating individuals and families with food access needs. Identify individuals and households in quarantine and isolation who need assistance with food; work with local EMD on process distribution/deployment of resources to

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families/household in need; escalate challenges in food supply, access, and distribution through EMD.

Food Security Coordinator, Jhana Wallace, 617 230 4487, MAfoodsecurity@mass.gov

Q: Are grocery cards and boxes available in Berkshire county?

A: Absolutely. Working to make grocery cards geographically relevant to the area and where people can actually receive deliveries. Grocery card, in addition to being more flexible, can also be used to purchase other types of necessities.

Q: Additional funding to lay on top of existing programs?

A: The state is complementing, not supplementing through this program. Although, you might be eligible for FEMA recovery reimbursements. We would like to partner and review how to submit a reimbursement package. We will send a link out to everyone.

Q: Any plan to work with local restaurants, so they can be restaurant cooked meals?

A: We have been exploring this. There have been local efforts to enroll local restaurants, working on a solution, do not have one right now.

Questions from emails:

Q: Funerals—how are they impacted by new restrictions?

A: Religious services, places of worship, limited to 25% capacity. Religious services in general, wedding or funeral, would also be 25%. Anything that takes place related to that service, but not directly related, i.e., a meal before or after, would be restricted as any other indoor/outdoor event.

Q: Face coverings in office spaces—business has one worker throughout the day behind plexiglass barrier, health agent received complaints about those employees not wearing a mask, can LBOH step in?

A: If the person is interacting with the public, they need to wear a face covering at all times, but the barrier makes this unclear. Very rarely, barriers allow you to take off your face mask. Barriers allow you to get closer than 6 ft for extended periods. Local jurisdictions can be stricter, but not as strict as the state.

Q: Questions about where someone might fall in the schedule for receiving the vaccine?

A: covid-19-vaccine-plan-MA@mass.gov

Questions from Q&A chat box not answered aloud:

Shane Keville-Wagner - 2:57 PM

Q: Does the 25 capacity in retail apply to grocery and pharmacy?

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-jana ferguson - 3:09 PM

A: Yes-

Jill Conselino - 2:58 PM

Q: will the new restrictions have any implications on town activities such as Park & Rec? I know that school based things fall under DESE, but what about town sponsored? -

-jana ferguson - 3:10 PM

A: All that were previously subject to the limits will be subject to the new limits.

Jill Conselino - 2:58 PM

Q: Also, will MIAA be updating guidance at all for sports play with new restrictions in mind? -

-jana ferguson - 3:10 PM

A: This is a temporary order overriding other standards. We do not have information about any changes to MIAA at this time.

Fran Fortino - 3:10 PM

Q: why do movie theater have a higher max capacity? -

-Mike Coughlin - 3:11 PM

A: Movie theaters have same limit, 25%, the max of 50 is even more limiting for larger screening rooms.-

Theresa Cocio - 3:00 PM

Q: Does the new gathering guidance pertain to sports? eg Hockey-

-jana ferguson - 3:12 PM

A: EEA is reviewing and will provide information at a later time.

wendy machmuller - 3:13 PM

Q: Who at State can they talk to? They do not feel that their voices are being heard, and they have no representation.-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:14 PM

A: All determination are made by the Reopening Advisory Board.

-Michael Flanagan - 3:15 PM

A: They may submit their concern at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/submit-questions-and-comments-about-reopening-massachusetts>

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Noelle Freeman - 3:14 PM

Q: I know this has been answered at previous webinars, so I apologize for the repeat. This just came up today. Can you repeat the requirement for masks for people in an office where there are several people but individual cubicles? -

-Michael Flanagan - 3:18 PM

A: Masks must be worn at all times unless the cubicles are 6 feet apart, and only occupied by one person.-

Andrea Foley - 3:13 PM

Q: if employees work in office setting that is to provide community health services (i.e., VNA services), this would be considered an critical service office and would not fall under the 25% restriction , correct? -

-Michael Flanagan - 3:18 PM

A: Yes

Shannon Sullivan - 3:13 PM

Q: We have an establishment in our town with bowling, indoor golf, an arcade and a restaurant, how does this work for 25%?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:18 PM

A: Each area is limited to 25% and required to follow the applicable Standard.

wendy machmuller - 3:18 PM

Q: Q re: outdoor gatherings: a neighborhood wants to have Christmas Caroling on Xmas Eve at a large park, which is surrounded by a wide street. The distance between left to right and front to back will be over 100 yds. Still 25 capacity?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:19 PM

A: Yes-

-jana ferguson - 3:20 PM

A: The answer is yes the limits would apply to your hypothetical scenario. However, they don't start until 12/26, so the Christmas Eve caroling should meet existing standards.

Mishel Caisapanta - 3:12 PM

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Q: If facilities that dont have an occupancy permit what would be the number for persons allowed per 1,000 square feet? -

-Michael Flanagan - 3:19 PM

A: 5 per 1,000

Heather Gallant - 3:11 PM

Q: Does the shower situation change at gyms, given the lowered capacity, or are 50% showers still allowed-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:20 PM

A: It is 25%

Phyllis Drayton - 3:19 PM

Q: SMS??-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:20 PM

A: That's a text message

Felix Zemel - 3:11 PM

Q: Is a city or town hall considered office space? Can you please expand upon the critical services for municipalities? Would mayor / town manager office, legal, clerk, and finance fall under this category?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:20 PM

A: Yes, it is office space. The town determines what is critical infrastructure.

Diane Passafaro - 3:20 PM

Q: When do they expect the Standards will be updated to reflect the new restrictions? My apologies if this was already discussed, I missed the first few minutes of the call.-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:22 PM

A: the standards won't be updated. There will be a banner on the website noting the new temporary capacity limitations

Denise Corrieri - 3:21 PM

Q: For restaurants is the 25% the number of seats they can have available or the number of guests allowed (allowing for differing table sizes). For example, you have a table set for 6 and 2 people sit at this table, this counts as 2 or 6? Thank you!-

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-Michael Flanagan - 3:22 PM

A: Guests allowed.

Sue Rosa - 3:29 PM

Q: please repeat that email address-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:30 PM

A: Covid-19-vaccine-plan-ma@mass.gov

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-information>

-Ron O'Connor - 3:38 PM

A: we will also send after the webinar

Kelly Dixon - 3:30 PM

Q: I am currently in the process of submitting the covid vx contract, when is this due by?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:31 PM

A: as soon as you can finish it.

Melissa Langille-Badger - 3:31 PM

Q: Can you repeat the website for covid vaccine placement schedule? Thank you-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:32 PM

A: Covid-19-vaccine-plan-ma@mass.gov

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-information>

-Ron O'Connor - 3:39 PM

A: will also send after webinar

kerry dunnell - 3:31 PM

Q: Reading, question for DPH re first responder EDS. Did I hear that collaborations should be with established partners? Thanks! Kerry-

-jana ferguson - 3:33 PM

A: Suggest that given the minimum number of first responders (more than 200) for a larger clinic, that smaller communities that want to do this will need to partner with others; they don't have to be established but I mentioned a few examples.

Matt Tanis - 3:30 PM

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Q: Is there any plan to open additional test sites, specifically in the southeastern region? Many CVS locations around us have abruptly stopped testing (with no notice) and have heard that some stop the spread sites in the New Bedford area recently closed.-

-jana ferguson - 3:36 PM

A: There is no current plan to open additional Stop the Spread sites as they were recently expanded to be regionally available. New Bedford has recently opened a very large capacity express site that can test up to 1,000 people daily.

Fran Fortino - 3:27 PM

Q: Why do movie theater have a higher max capacity than other larger venues?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:37 PM

A: The theaters cannot exceed 25%. the cap of 50 is for a screening room that seats hundreds, those cannot exceed 50 total. Its more restrictive than just a flat 25% cap.

James Fiorentini - 3:29 PM

Q: Who is covered by "public safety"? Does it include all civilians who work for fire and police such as civilis dispatch, mechanics etc.-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:38 PM

A: Definition has not changed due to the temporary order.

John Garside - 3:30 PM

Q: Model standing orders for COVID vaccines and consent forms please-

-jana ferguson - 3:40 PM

A: We will send out the link again to the website where they will be posted as available.

Ivan Colon - 3:38 PM

Q: whats the COVID 19 email again?-

-Ron O'Connor - 3:40 PM

A: will send after the webinar Covid-19-vaccine-plan-ma@mass.gov
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-information>

Jane Brown - 3:17 PM

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Q: Where can LBOH departments find documents to be used at COVID clinics ie. VIS, Standing Orders, forms that public needs to fill out, etc..?-

-jana ferguson - 3:42 PM

A: We will send out the link where items will be posted as they are available.

Terence Hayes - 3:42 PM

Q: Will food courts be closed?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:43 PM

A: yes-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:44 PM

A: They were closed by the rollback. They should be closed since last Sunday and will be required to remain so until the Sector Standard is updated. This prohibition does NOT expire on January 10.

Frank Giacalone - 3:33 PM

Q: did not see a reply to my question regarding weddings and funerals. Does the new 10 indoor and 25 outdoor gathering limit apply...-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:43 PM

A: Places of Worship are limited to 25% indoors. There is no outdoor limit for religious services. For all other aspects of a funeral or wedding they would have to follow the Indoor and Outdoor Event Standards, including the temporary capacity limits

Julia Junghanns - 3:48 PM

Q: we are partnering with Natick for first responder vaccinations and natick has completed the survey, do we have to do the survey also?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:48 PM

A: No, we have it. Thanks Julia.

Additional questions please email: Michael.j.coughlin@mass.gov