

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

*MDPH/LBOH Webinar 3/12/2021*



## Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Glynnis LaRosa and Laurie A. Courtney, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn and Mary Clark, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Michael Flanagan and Adam Kinney, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Dr. John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

### **Announcements:**

***Updates to guidance for indoor and outdoor events:*** New workplace safety standards for indoor and outdoor events are being posted today. Indoor and outdoor events remain subject to the previously issued February 4, 2021 safety standards until these revised workplace safety standards go into effect on March 22, 2021. No changes to the following sections of the standards: Notification to LBOH, hygiene protocols, cleaning and disinfecting, additional worker safety guidelines and resources.

Exhibitions and convention halls may reopen as part of Phase IV, Step 1 and must follow these sector specific COVID-19 workplace safety rules for indoor or outdoor events. The following Phase IV enterprises must continue to remain closed until Phase IV, Step 2: Amusement parks, theme parks, indoor/outdoor waterparks and ball pits; street festivals, parades, and agricultural festivals; road races and other large outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events; bars, dance clubs and nightclubs; beer gardens, breweries, wineries, and distilleries not providing seated food services;

***Social distancing:*** The host of an indoor event held at an event venue (e.g. hotels, private clubs, and space available for lease) or in a public setting (e.g. public parks) must limit the number of attendees at all times to no more than 100 persons. For outdoor events held at an event venue as listed above, or in a public setting (e.g. public parks) a host must limit the number of attendees at all times to no more than 150 persons. All participants in indoor and outdoor gatherings must maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance whenever possible. An event will violate these capacity limit where, regardless of the actual number of attendees, it is not reasonably possible for all participants regularly to maintain 6 feet of separation. Valet parking updates: can be provided and sanitizer should be used before and after parking vehicles.

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**Q:** Social distancing is required on dance floors?

**A:** Does say it must be practiced whenever possible, so yes technically.

**Q:** 90 minutes time limit in restaurants?

**A:** Has not changed.

**Q:** Can an event space host most than one event at a time?

**A:** Yes, if they can have these in separate areas and are actually separate events. You can't have one wedding where you break the wedding up into two groups of 100, but you can have two weddings that are separated.

**Q:** Sectors that are still closed, do these standards change these?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Unattended water stations?

**A:** Prohibited. Retail refreshment stations are available though.

**Q:** Can bars be open?

**A:** Bars cannot be open until Phase 4, Step 2, provided however that drink service may be provided by servers.

**Q:** Are the vaccines able to be transported to vaccinate someone at home?

**A:** Yes, read the guidance on the [vaccinating homebound persons](#).

**Q:** Observation periods? Any talk of doing away with them?

**A:** No!

***Musical and other performances:*** Must follow the latest theatre and performance venue guidance, including distance between performers and between performers and attendees. Any performers arriving from other states must follow the Commonwealth's current performances at indoor venue standards and may not include singing.

***Dance floors:*** May open for events only. Face coverings must be worn at all times on the dance floor.

***Weekly [COVID-19 Municipality Vaccination Data](#):*** Top 3 items on this webpage are all vaccine data. (*Dr. Brown went through each page through a screen share*)

***Daily [COVID-19 vaccine report](#):*** Vaccine doses shipped to MA, number of vaccine doses administered including number of people partially and fully vaccinated, percent of total doses administered.

***Weekly [COVID-19 vaccination dashboard](#):*** Information on vaccine supply distribution, administration, and other data for Massachusetts. Key metrics include: number of doses of vaccine shipped and administered, number of people vaccinated, vaccine distribution numbers by county; age and race/ethnicity breakdowns of those receiving vaccines; and vaccines administered by different types of providers.

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Weekly COVID-19 municipality vaccination report: Includes information on individuals vaccinated for COVID-19 by their zip code and city or town of residence. The data includes age, sex, and race/ethnicity characteristics of vaccinated individuals.

**Q:** Does the data include vaccinated MA residents but done in other states?

**A:** Yes, as long as they're reported to us.

**Variants of concern:** In general, It's either because they seem to be more transmissible or they may not be quite as responsive to current therapeutics and vaccines. This does not mean the vaccines are not effective, it means the efficacy might be a little less.

B.1.1.7 (uk); B.1.351 (S. Africa); P.1 (Brazil/Japan). Overall case counts have plateaued, more likely due to increase reopening and activities but does not look linked to variants, but we have to watch this very carefully. No evidence that the variants are the largest proportion of our cases yet.

### MASSACHUSETTS CASES

Variant	Number of Cases
B.1.1.7	156
B.1.351	6
P.1	0
Total	162

Age Group	Number of Cases
<=19	41
20s	30
30s	24
40s	17
50s	25
60s	15
70s	5
80s	3
90s	2
Total	162

County	Number of Cases
Bristol County	5
Essex County	20
Hampshire County	2
Middlesex County	31
Norfolk County	23
Plymouth County	5
Suffolk County	35
Worcester County	41
Total	162

Sex	Number of Cases
female	75
male	87
Total	162

**Q:** Should vaccinated people be included in testing programs, such as pool testing for schools/other regularly testing programs?

**A:** We have good data on how well the vaccines do when preventing serious illness and death, but not really about how milder cases are transmitted. It is a good idea to have vaccinated people tested, too.

**Q:** How does the new registration site work?

**A:** New registration system launched today: for people who want to go in, plug in eligibility information and you will be added to a pre-registration list. These are for mass

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vax sites only. Even if you're not eligible, it will sort you by eligibility so when your group is eligible, you'll be on the list. Once registration opens for you, it will contact you via phone/text and email, and give you 24 hours to confirm if you want to schedule an appointment.

### **Questions from Q&A answered out loud:**

Joan Clarico - 8:40 AM

**Q:** Can retail package and wine stores host wine tastings?-

-Adam Kinney - 9:04 AM

**A:** At this time tastings are not allowed according to the Safety Standards for Retail Businesses

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Matt Poole - 9:07 AM

**Q:** RE: Road Races -- I have a small running of approx 50 runners for a marathon qualifier. Can they start in flights of 10 runners or less and maintain distance, etc. OR does that fall into the road race prohibition? -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:10 AM

**A:** Road races are prohibited at this time. There are special provisions for schools to conduct cross country races.-

-Mike Coughlin - 9:10 AM

**A:** EEA is not on this morning's call and we cannot answer your question at this time. you may email it to me at [michael.j.coughlin@mass.gov](mailto:michael.j.coughlin@mass.gov) and I will forward to them-

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Katie Tenaglia-O'Neill - 9:02 AM

**Q:** Are resorts allowed to have unattended water stations, or do they need to have an attendant?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:10 AM

**A:** Unattended beverage stations are not allowed in any setting except retail.

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Catherine Alix - 9:08 AM

**Q:** If the outside event is school related on school grounds, does the board of health still need to be notified? Thinking of moving prom outside as a garden party no outside guests. Also thinking of a drive in movie night as a fund raiser.-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:11 AM

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**A:** Unless DESE issues specific guidance, a prom would need to follow the events standard.

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Ben Margro - 9:08 AM

**Q:** Will sector specific guidance that hasn't been updated in months be revisited? For example, personal care services. Glove exemption/optional to stylists besides just massage?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:11 AM

**A:** Only if there are changes to the standard.

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Jeffrey Stephens - 9:09 AM

**Q:** One Question I just started getting is proms for high schools. If they are held at the school, do they qualify as a school event? I will assume proms will have to follow indoor gatherings guidance at a hall. -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:17 AM

**A:** Yes, proms are required to follow the events standard.

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John McVeigh - 9:16 AM

**Q:** Earth Day- Clean up days allowed late April if separated groups (gathering limit) through-out Town. -

-Jana Ferguson - 9:17 AM

**A:** Of course we should never get in the way of cleaning up litter. Please adhere to social distancing!

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Jill Conselino - 9:10 AM

**Q:** Is the guidance for indoor/outdoor event capacity per venue or per room at the venue? For a banquet hall with multiple rooms can they accommodate numbers in each separate room?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:18 AM

**A:** The capacity limit is per event. They may have multiple events if they can be kept separate.

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Darren MacCaughey - 9:11 AM

**Q:** I was 5 minutes late logging on to the webinar but did I miss any discussion about the max 90 minute time allowed for patrons stay/eat/drink before they must leave?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:20 AM

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**A:** The requirement has not changed.

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Michele Desmarais - 9:13 AM

**Q:** Can you speak about DArt leagues? -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:21 AM

**A:** Follow the Arcades and Other Indoor and Outdoor Games Standard

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Michael Theroux - 9:09 AM

**Q:** Do you think they will allow Six Flags New England to open. I have reviewed their plan and it was very comprehensive and all their other parks around us are open "New Jersey, New York"-

-laurie courtney - 9:21 AM

**A:** Links for vaccinating homebound persons, and guidance on transportation of vaccines:

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Colleen Fermon - 9:11 AM

**Q:** So starting March 22, at a place offering seated food service, the person can order a drink without ordering food?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:22 AM

**A:** No, they must still order food.

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Peter Faticanti - 9:12 AM

**Q:** Are splash pads and sprinkler parks considered water parks? Or is that more focused on waterslide and wave pools?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:23 AM

**A:** EEA has guidance on splash pads and sprinkler parks.

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Jamie Terry - 9:14 AM

**Q:** Would separate fields at a flea market (Brimfield) count as separate events?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:24 AM

**A:** Only if they are actually separate events. One event i.e. a flea market) cannot use multiple spaces to increase capacity.

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Dawn McCullough - 9:14 AM

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**Q:** Can private social clubs hold events where food is served if the buffet is attended to by a member of the social club?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:24 AM

**A:** They would need to follow the events standard as all other event venues do.

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Shannon Sullivan - 9:14 AM

**Q:** Are you allowed to order alcohol without ordering food?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:24 AM

**A:** No

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Flor Amaya - 9:14 AM

**Q:** Are restaurants required to keep a patron's log? Does this apply to full service restaurants only? -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:25 AM

**A:** This has not changed. It is a recommendation and not a requirement.

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17817188045 OConnor - 9:15 AM

**Q:** I have police football league with teams coming in from out of State for fundraiser football game with spectators expected - is this considered an "event." They are using City's football stadium-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:26 AM

**A:** They should follow the EEA standard on Youth and Adult Amateur Sports. Any other events, such as a BBQ, associated with it should follow those standards.

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Rachel Lee - 9:22 AM

**Q:** When will LBOH be able to resume administering vaccines? Will this be ability resume when state gets more vaccines, or will vaccines continue not be sent to LBOH's in the future? Would like to plan ahead. Thank you. -

-Jana Ferguson - 9:26 AM

**A:** At this point, there is no plan to open the vaccine distribution to standalone municipal clinics.

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Beth Grossman - 9:15 AM

**Q:** Can fast food do self serve no touch soda dispensers-

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-Michael Flanagan - 9:26 AM

**A:** No

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Lauren Saunders - 9:20 AM

**Q:** We are not able to get our in-home vaccination survey in by end of day today but we are interested in doing it in the city. All the partners are meeting on this Monday. Can we still complete the survey on Monday?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:27 AM

**A:** Please submit your survey today to say you want to do it. Follow up surveys for those selecting to do in-home vaccination will go out at the beginning of the week. You can change your position at that time, if needed.

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Erin Kirchner - 9:19 AM

**Q:** Related to the multiple events in one facility - can there be 150 people outside AND 100 inside at the same facility, whether a single event or two events?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:28 AM

**A:** They can have two separate events, but not one event that is split between the two settings.

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Caeli Tegan - 9:34 AM

**Q:** What should municipalities do with extra doses at second dose clinics? If we give it as a first dose we can't give them a second.-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:36 AM

**A:** If you have a large amount of extra vaccine, please let us know so it can be redistributed. For small numbers of extra doses, people will be able to get second doses at mass vax sites.

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shelly newhouse - 9:35 AM

**Q:** Where is the link to this data? please-

-Mike Coughlin - 9:38 AM

**A:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates> scroll down to see muncipal data

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CHRIS KNUTH - 9:39 AM



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**Q:** where can the town specific data be found? thank you Chris -

-Mike Coughlin - 9:40 AM

**A:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates> scroll down to municipal data.

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Maribeth Ting - 9:41 AM

**Q:** I just tried that link - and got a page not found message-

-Mike Coughlin - 9:46 AM

**A:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates> -

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Beth Grossman - 9:33 AM

**Q:** Confused on wedding cocktail hour. Can they serve food and drinks if people standing around? Can they have cheese platter self serve. -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:46 AM

**A:** o Food services: Must follow the latest restaurant guidance, provided however that staffed buffets and passed food service is permitted. Self-serve, unattended buffets, topping bars, drink stations, and other communal serving areas must remain closed

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Beth Grossman - 9:38 AM

**Q:** Can cocktail hour do passes goes doeuvres?

Can meal be buffet self serve?

Can meal be buffet served by staff?

Please answer specifically not give other place to look!!!! Confused-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:47 AM

**A:** o Food services: Must follow the latest restaurant guidance, provided however that staffed buffets and passed food service is permitted. Self-serve, unattended buffets, topping bars, drink stations, and other communal serving areas must remain closed

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wendy machmuller - 9:37 AM

**Q:** Residents are asking us why we (MA) are not getting any J&J until April. Why are other states getting J&J before MA?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:47 AM

**A:** We don't know the answer to this. We would love to have it.

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Mark Oram - 9:40 AM

**Q:** Is the State planning for any additional Mass Vaccination Sites?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:47 AM

**A:** Not at this time.

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Noelle Freeman - 9:39 AM

**Q:** Are evening custodial staff who clean schools but work for an outside company that the school district contracts with eligible for vaccination as K-12 staff?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:47 AM

**A:** Yes

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jennifer Abou Ezzi - 9:41 AM

**Q:** Can municipal boards meet in person utilizing the masking and distancing guidelines? Or is recommended to remain virtual?-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 9:47 AM

**A:** the challenge is that municipal board meeting need to be open to the public pursuant to the Open Meeting Law. If the meeting space is big enough or if the public is permitted to participate on a large enough Zoom call, they could meet in person.

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wendy machmuller - 9:36 AM

**Q:** Stated within the press release on March 10, and repeatedly mentioned on these calls: Massachusetts receives a very limited supply of vaccine from the federal government each week..... Why is that? Are other states given higher priority?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:48 AM

**A:** Vaccine is distributed by population numbers and are limited by available manufactured vaccine being sent to states.

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Marianne Sullivan - 9:48 AM

**Q:** Quarantine Guidance document released 3-8-2021 states" Abbott Binesor antigen test" - is this a typographical error and should read Abbott BinaxNow antigen test?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:49 AM

**A:** Yes. Thank you for flagging the error.