

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 4/20/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Katie Brown 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
- Russell Johnston, Lauren Woo, Anne Gilligan, and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Dr. John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative
- Kristina Crandall, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Disaster Recovery Unit

Announcements:

DESE update and quarantine protocol: Any individual in the classroom or on the bus while masked do not need to quarantine unless they were within 3ft of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes throughout a 24 hour period. If you are 3ft or more, you are not a close contact in the classroom. These are guidelines around the classroom or the bus. This does not apply in any other settings, such as extra curriculars, sports, and lunch. Guidelines likely to be released in two parts, today a summary and later in the week a detail protocol.

Q: 3ft close contact definition only applies to students or also adults in the classroom?

A: Any individual in the classroom. By and large our educators have had the opportunity to be vaccinated and if they are, they don't have to follow the quarantine.

Q: What about circumstances where one student wears a mask in the classroom, and another doesn't. For example, a student who has special needs.

A: When both parties are not wearing masks, look back at the guidance released by DPH last fall and about direct service providers from CDC for teachers who are working directly with a student who is not masked.

Q: Vocational schools—shop and physical education considered classrooms?

A: They do fall as classes; this is something we will clarify in the future.

Q: Does this new guidance apply to students who are in a classroom setting doing club activities outside of school hours, such as math club?

A: Guidelines are difficult to apply to all settings, but perhaps there aren't as many children in the classroom during these activities and the focus should be on practicing social distancing in these instances.

Q: DPH supports this?

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A: Yes, received approval from the Command Center.

Massachusetts Vaccination Status: MA is administering 84,368 doses per day, including federal doses. #1 for first doses administered per capita amongst the states with 5M people; #1 for total doses administered (1st and 2nd) per capita amongst the states with 5M people; MA is #5 for total doses administered (1st and 2nd doses) per capita; MA ranks #4 for first doses administered per capita amongst all states; at least 85% of MA's 75+ residents have received a first dose, exceeding the national average of 80%; Every county in MA has vaccinated at least 75% of its 75+ population; MA has given a first dose (including J&J) to at least 31% of black residents and 26% of Hispanic residents compared to 14% nationally; As of this last weekend, over 2 million people in MA have received their second dose of vaccine (or one dose of J&J).

Other Updates: Clinical considerations webpage at CDC website was updated on Friday to reflect information about the pause related to J&J. For those using the [quick reference guide](#) for healthcare providers with information on the 3 vaccines, this was updated yesterday so please use that updated version.

Q: Homebound vaccinations—status on J&J?

A: All waiting for the Committee recommendations on J&J, meeting scheduled for Friday. We are still pausing until we hear recommendations, but we are using Moderna now starting next Monday and this is for communities who scheduled vaccines but received J&J and had screened individuals to do homebound vaccinations.

Q: Will the mask order be lifted soon for outdoors? Based on a Globe article and speculation on Twitter.

A: As far as Jana knows, there is no change in the mask order.

CDC funding opportunities in the office of Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities: DPH Office of Community Health Workers (CHWs) will apply for a new CDC funding opportunity. Local health departments will be an important part of the DPH application. We are seeking partners to name in the federal grant application who will work with us directly on grant implementation. Partners must provide primary care services directly, such as CHC or as a part of an integrated care plan with behavioral health or other community-based services, either directly or in partnership. Successful applications must also be able to partner with their local health department to implement innovative approaches that employ policy, systems, or environmental changes that will train, deploy, and engage CHWs to address inequities exacerbated by COVID-19.

Questions from Q&A answered out loud:

Q: Fourth of July/Memorial Day planning? Any changes to plays/carnivals/parades? Other types of celebratory activities?

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A: Unfortunately, DLS is not privy to when Phase 4 Step 2 will be in place.

Those events can be hosted then.

Q: Transfer stations, can swap tables be opened if people remain socially distanced?

A: Yes, generally part of recycling operations are open as long as good sanitation practices are in place.

Q: Public Health Excellence Grant updates?

A: Will try to announce them by the end of this week or beginning of next.

Q: Are horse/dog shows an event?

A: Need more context on this. If a horse show is an exhibition with people sitting in the stands, this could potentially be a performance, or if it's a competition this would fall to EEA.

Please continue to send questions to Mike Coughlin at Michael.j.coughlin@mass.gov

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

-Allyson Larsen - 3:15 PM

Q: Graduates 3ft outside and Masked at a graduation, okay?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:16 PM

A: No the DLS and DESE Graduation Guidance still requires 6 feet of separation. -

-Julie Coco - 3:18 PM

Q: Do LBOHs have the authority to still quarantine individuals at their discretion? -

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:21 PM

A: Yes. LBOHs have the legal authority to issue isolation and quarantine orders.-

-Taylor West - 3:28 PM

Q: Can someone please post the link of quick reference guide in this Q&A? Thanks

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-Laurie Courtney - 3:28 PM

A: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/covid19-vaccine-quick-reference-guide-2pages.pdf> -

-Aimee Petrosky - 3:02 PM

Q: Are there any plans to address Fireworks displays, Carnivals, or Parades. My town is really pushing fourth of July activities and I am wondering if new guidance will be coming out on such things. -

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-Michael Flanagan - 3:30 PM

A: Currently all such activities would not be allowed. We are eagerly awaiting the move to Phase IV Step 2 when those will be allowed.-

-andrea foley - 3:20 PM

Q: any changes to business/office guidance anticipated re: wearing face mask/face mask requirement even if employees are vaccinated?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:32 PM

A: Not at this time.-

-Tricia McGean - 3:31 PM

Q: Can swap tables open at transfer stations as long as people remain social distanced?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:32 PM

A: Yes-

-wendy machmuller - 3:41 PM

Q: Per the question above about festivals, etc. do BLOCK parties or neighborhood BBQs fall into the same category? Or, as an outdoor event in a public space (or public way) be categorized differently? We have had lots of inquiries -

-Michael Flanagan - 3:42 PM

A: They would need to follow the event standard regardless of location.-