

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

*MDPH/LBOH Webinar 4/30/2021*



## 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, Laurie Courtney and Katie Reilly, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Michael Flanagan, Adam Kinney and Mary Dozois, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt, Anne Gilligan, and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Gerben Scherpbier, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Kristina Crandall, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Disaster Recovery Unit

### **Announcements:**

***CMG Associates:*** Instead of 3-5 different webinars, we are offering a series of Emotional Intelligence webinars.

Part 1: Overview of Emotional Intelligence, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 am -11 am;

Part 2: The Fundamental Drivers of Human Behavior, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 11 am;

Part 3: Skillfully Dealing with Emotion May 25<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 3pm.

Learning objectives:

-Be clearer about what emotional intelligence is

-Recognize their own strongest threats and rewards and those of other people

-Reduce personal reactivity and increase ability to manage one's own emotions

-Design interpersonal interactions that can help to defuse conflict and increase positive

engagement

-Develop an action plan to apply what you've learned in all three parts to your work and home life going forward.

Also still offering individual sessions

***EEA Guidance updates:*** Documents about the following being removed from the webpage.

-Mountain biking; whitewater rafting (to be incorporated into outdoor recreational experiences and educational activities); recreational boating; parks, open space, and outdoor education programs; coastal and inland beaches; playgrounds, spray decks, and outdoor fitness areas; hunter education; EEA Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Guidelines; campgrounds.

-Remaining EEA guidance documents include: youth and amateur sports activities; public and semi-public swimming pools; outdoor recreational experiences and educational

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activities; for-hire and charter vessels; recreational boating businesses; zoos, botanical gardens, wildlife preserve, nature centers. Updates to these documents will be posed prior to May 10<sup>th</sup>.

-Businesses should follow the [Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces](#)

**DLS updates:** Workplace standards being rescinded effective today, but there are some nuances.

-Standards for construction, drive-in movie theaters, golf facilities, manufactures, and libraries. Any of those industries used to have a capacity limit. I.e. libraires and manufactures had a 50% capacity limit. Also, libraries no longer need to quarantine their books. Any that didn't have any capacity limits should just follow general business standards. Cuts it down that there are only 14 business sectors that still have business standards and the rest just follow general business standards. Mask mandate also changing effective today, specifically around outdoor requirements about masks. Some sector specific standards, the ones still in place, still do require face coverings, even for activities outside, if the standard says they still need to wear face coverings then they still have to do that even though the requirement to wear face coverings outdoors have been relaxed.

**Q:** Golf carts, do need to be disinfected between users? Or does this go away once the golf standards go away.

**A:** Any specific requirements used for golf are no longer applicable. Just need to follow the general business standards, for example retail services and food.

**EEE update:** No mosquitoes to worry about yet. EEE is rare but serious. 50% mortality, up to 80% of survivors left with permanent neurologic damage. All ages can be affected. 2019 was likely the beginning of a 2-3 year cycle. MDPH/MDAR worked over the winter to review 2020 season and response activities and prepare for 2021. In 2020, we had 5 people infected and 1 death, which would be average for this cycle. Lots of work done between winter of 2019 and spring of 2020.

-Communications to maximize adoption of personal prevention behaviors (most effective mitigation strategy):

-DPH initiated communications with camps, schools, and sports organizations in early June, promoting the use of bug spray.

-DPH public awareness campaign launched mid-June.

-Surveillance/trapping to drive use of all prevention tools:

-DPH added trapping locations, expanding its surveillance efforts

-DPH worked with MCPs to reduce time between trapping and testing.

-Larviciding, a targeting mitigation tool:

-MDAR coordinated early in the season with mosquito districts to conduct aggressive, targeted larviciding operations.

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- Larviciding has some promising data from Plymouth county.
  - MDAR implemented larviciding product of choice field trials.
  - Adulticiding can be a targeted or widespread mitigation tool
    - Upon decision to spray, contractors will have assets & personnel in place within 3 days with 2 aircrafts for over 250,000 acres.
- Aerial spray is necessary when personal prevention behaviors are not working. This is not the answer, but this is something that happens when all else fails. One aerial spray in Plymouth county done last year, pre and post spray mosquito trapping had a 70% temporary reduction and 82% of human biting mosquitoes. Aerial sprays only temporary.

*When deciding whether or not to use aerial spraying, we check the following:*

- how large are the populations of concern? How much EEE is in the populations? Is risk widespread, +/- occurring in areas where truck-based mosquito control is not available or unlikely to be effective due to habitat?
- Weather, and time of season.

*Aerial spray decision making inputs:* DPH risk assessments and geographic distribution of virus. MDAR/State Reclamation & Mosquito Control Board pesticide regulation and subject matter expertise. Mosquito Control Districts, field condition awareness and mosquito control expertise. Mosquito Advisory Group, mosquito control expertise advisory group.

West Nile Virus is also a threat, 8 human cases last year and 1 death.

In 2020, there was a law passed for mosquito control task force. [MGL CH 252](#). It established a process by which a municipality could request to opt out of control spraying conducted by state Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board. This opt out request can be made, and then the request gets reviewed. DPH has some input into this discussion, but this is a process that falls under the authority of the EEA and not driven by DPH. Some communities are not aware of this, so we will send this out to you. Early this year, EPA put out press release which acknowledge that there has been a detection of PFAS in a mosquito controlled product used in MA. The investigation that occurred revealed that the PFAS was not in the pesticide per say, but actually in the plastic containers that the pesticides come in. Now going to ship in steel containers and not plastic containers. For people who are interested in more information about PFAS, information can be found on [EPA](#).

*Historical Indicators of risk:*

Pre-season: above average rainfall in the prior fall and current spring; mild winters with insulating snow cover; EEE activity in the previous year.

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During the season: any EEE virus isolations from mosquitoes prior to July 1; isolation of EEE virus from a mammal-biting species of mosquitoes; infection of a human prior to late August; higher than average summer temperatures (accelerates the mosquito reproductive and development cycle. Shortens the time interval between a mosquito becoming infected with EEE virus and when it becomes capable of transmitting the virus.)

### *Current indicators of risk:*

Mild winters and insulating snow cover; EEE activity in previous year.

### *DPH Arbovirus Program Overview:*

-*Surveillance*, setting and collecting traps from long-term sites in southeastern MA. Collaborate with mosquito control projects on their surveillance efforts in member communities.

-*Lab testing* and correlation with patient information. Testing specimens for EEE/WNV. Ex. Mosquitoes, suspect animal and human specimens.

-*Risk Analysis and Communication*. Identify areas at risk for human disease. Communicate findings with local health agents, MCPs and the public. Provide information to guide the control actions to reduce the risk of disease.

*Long term changes likely affecting risk:* Changes in land use patterns, wetlands restorations (mosquito/bird habitats expanding); suburban development (humans closer to risky areas); impact of climate change and related ecological effects (increased precipitation, higher temps, prolonged mosquito season, alterations in songbird populations and migratory timing and patterns, northward expansion of additional mosquito vector species.)

*Public communications plan for 2021:* Paid and earned media in English and Spanish. Press releases to be sent in Summer Safety, around May 28<sup>th</sup>. Includes personal protection messages and mosquito safety awareness. Social media on Memorial Day for how to avoid mosquito, ticks, and other summer safety messaging. TV/Radio in early July. Designated mass.gov EEE website. Enhanced public messaging via DOT billboards, electronic signs, infographics and printed materials.

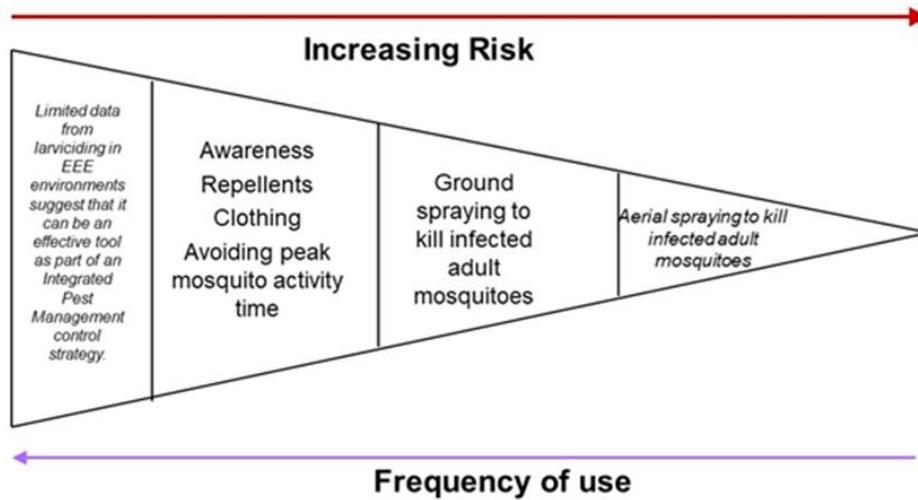
*Stakeholder engagement:* Continue to provide frequent, varied communication to stakeholders. Stakeholder-specific information: calls/fact sheets. Utilize updated and enhanced multi-media materials including videos, mini-booklets, posters created last year. Expand print materials into additional languages. Outreach, print materials, and technical assistance for local health, schools and camps, sports leagues and other groups.

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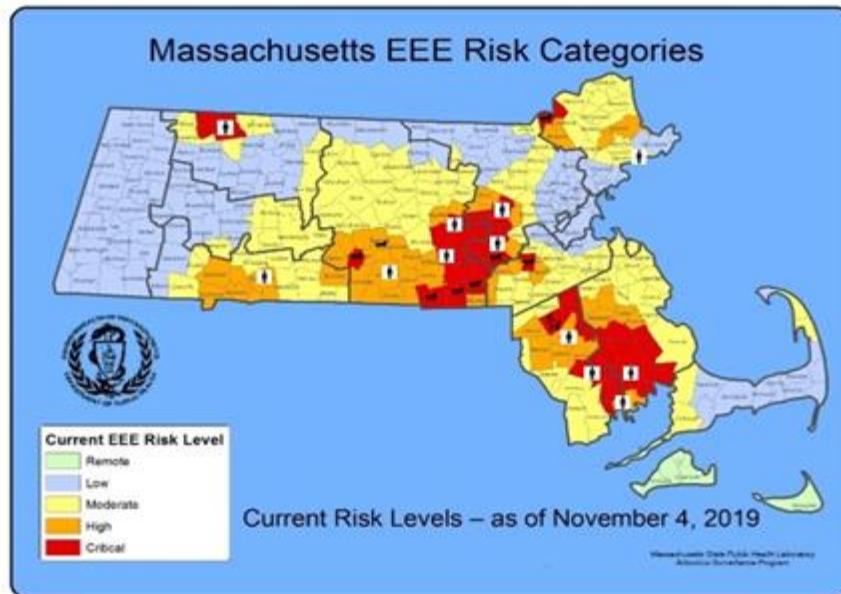
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## Prevention Tools



## EEE: Expanding Activity



**Precautions:** Apply insect repellent when outdoors with EPA-registered ingredient, DEET; permethrin; picaridin; oil of lemon eucalyptus. Reduce exposed skin—wear long sleeves, long pants, socks when outdoors. Avoid peak mosquito hours—from dusk to dawn are peak biting



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times, consider rescheduling outdoor activities. Reduce mosquito breeding—dump standing water, stagnant water is used by mosquitos to lay their eggs.

**Q:** Do you anticipate for the 2021 mosquito season, the map will be comparable to the 2019 map.

**A:** We couldn't predict in 2019, and we cannot predict in 2021.

**Q:** MDAR opt out requirements?

**A:** [Lots of information online](#). Although DPH will be consulted in reviewing the request, this does not fall under our authority in any way shape or form.

**Q:** Risk level for a town this summer is based on the risks level of last year? How to gauge around towns and advising towns.

**A:** 2021 arborvirus surveillance and response plan looks the same as the 2020 plan. Some updated figures and numbers, but in terms of the criteria used for risk assessments its all going to be the same. The determination for how towns are set in the beginning of the season are how things are planned. No one starts the season high or critical, but any community who had activity in last 10 years will start with higher risk than a community that hasn't had activity in 10 years.

**PHE grants:** Funded by a \$10M line item in FY2021 and FY2022 for public health shared services. RFR was released in February to align with the recommendations of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health –“[Blueprint for Public Health Excellence](#)”. Significant milestone in the effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the local public health system. 30 applications were received to expand existing or to establish new shared services arrangements. Grant awards were announced this morning. 29 shared services arrangements representing 191 cities and towns will receive a total of \$7.7M. 18 of the funded proposals are for the new shared services arrangements. Over 100 cities and towns that are standalone municipalities for public health services are now part of plans for shared services.

## Public Health Excellence for Shared Services

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission  
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for Blackstone Valley  
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for Webster Partnership  
Foothills Health District  
Foxborough Board of Health  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
Gloucester Board of Health  
Hamilton Board of Health  
Hudson Board of Health  
Leicester Board of Health  
Longmeadow Board of Health  
Methuen Board of Health  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council for North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative  
Nantucket Board of Health  
Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

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## Public Health Excellence for Shared Services

Northampton Board of Health  
Northborough Board of Health  
Norwood Health Department  
Quabbin Health District  
Reading Board of Health  
Salem Board of Health  
Sudbury Board of Health  
Topsfield Board of Health  
Tri-Town Health Department  
Tyngsborough Board of Health  
Wakefield Board of Health  
Westford Board of Health  
Worcester Division of Public Health  
Wrentham Board of Health

**Vaccine updates:** [CDC webpage](#) on all things clinical related to COVID-19 vaccines, some updates so take a look there for clinical considerations for J&J and counseling patients who are thinking about J&J vaccine, and a new section/paragraph on how to deal with people who have stated a series in a different country or completed a vaccine series in another country.

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

**Q:** face coverings required at all times in indoors?

**A:** Face coverings required outdoors if individual cannot maintain a distance of a minimum of 6ft unless other specific guidance does not apply. Events and gatherings, public locations face coverings at all time. Public locations are defined are places open to public. Grocery stores, public T, other retail settings, taxis, public streets and ways, hotels, event venues, private clubs, or performances. When carpooling with non-household members. Private homes and backyards, encouraged but not required. If a customer/patron/attendee does not want to wear a mask, a business can decide to not let them in. If there is some language in sector specific standards that requires a mask, you must wear it. If one cannot wear a mask, employee or other workers in schools can request an accommodation, then they need to go through accommodation process with employer or schools. The employer or schools may require documentation to qualify the condition. Effective this morning and in effect until state of emergency is rescinded.

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### Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

-Michele Salvatore - 9:01 AM

Q: With the mask mandate changes, is there anything different about when students can take off their masks outside? Can vaccinated staff sit together without masks at less than 6 feet inside?-

-Anne Gilligan - 9:05 AM

A: The mask mandates for schools have not changed. Schools are encouraged to adhere to all the mitigation strategies through the end of this school year.-

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-Michele Salvatore - 9:00 AM

Q: Do the changes in the mask mandate impact schools at all? For example, can vaccinated staff sit outside for lunch without masks at less than 6 feet of distance? Has anything changed about when students take masks off outside? Thank you.-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 9:06 AM

A: At this time, masks are still required in school. This FAQ provides the current requirements. -

-Anne Marie Stronach - 9:06 AM

A: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/faq/2021-0322faq-installment.docx>-

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-Maribeth Ting - 9:07 AM

Q: I also have received questions from our District school nurses. they are to identify close contacts but if the students are 3+ feet from the case they don't need to quarantine - are we sharing these identified contact with local pulic health. - and if so when they go to speak with families how do we reconcile the confusion between identification as close contact but no need to quarnatine?-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 9:10 AM

A: DESE has provide this FAQ to support schools with the quarrantine change for in the classroom and on the bus. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/faq/2021-0426faq-installment.docx>-

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-Shannon Sullivan - 9:10 AM

Q: for outside exercise classes, how far apart do individuals have to be?-

-Adam Kinney - 9:11 AM

A: 6 Feet and masked-

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-Laura DelleChiaie - 9:15 AM

Q: Would a yoga class done outside at the senior center fall under the fitness clubs guidance or the outdoor events guidance? Thank you.-

-Adam Kinney - 9:15 AM

A: Fitness standards-

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-michael Theroux - 9:00 AM

Q: Does retail capacity change on May 10?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:18 AM

A: The standards that will take effect on May 10th are still in development. We will get you updates as soon as they are ready.-

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-Jessica Potter - 9:11 AM

Q: Is there an updated prom guidance that reflects the new reopening changes?-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 9:19 AM

A: The current guidance links to the event guidance. -

-Anne Marie Stronach - 9:19 AM

A: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/return-to-school/supplement/2020-0831student-groups-school-events.docx>-

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-michael Theroux - 9:04 AM

Q: I work where Six Flags is located and they have two Pavilions for company events outside in their picnic grove can they have 250 at each pavilion or is it 250 max for the whole space even with two pavilions?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:18 AM

A: They can have two separate events. They cannot have one event for 500 people split between the two venues.-

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-Maribeth Ting - 9:05 AM

Q: I've been asked about current burial guidance. is the restriction 50 people? are tents allowed?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:19 AM

A: There is no capacity limit for religious services outdoors. Tents would be allowed as long as the sides are left up for proper ventilation.-

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-susan mosler - 9:06 AM

Q: bulk bins and salad bars in grocery stores?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:20 AM

A: No change at this time.-

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-Wes Chin - 9:17 AM

Q: We are getting questions from concerned members of the community about how the Revised Mask Order will impact mask wearing at traditionally crowded spaces such as playgrounds & sideline spectators at youth sports. What can be done if mask wearing does not occur at some of these congested areas/events? -

-Cheryl Sbarra - 9:21 AM

A: If you have a LOCAL mask order you could issue fines. You can always use the nuisance statute. Signage would help.-

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-Connie Dolan - 9:07 AM

Q: What are the criteria for outdoor dining? Does a screened porch qualify? Are masks required when people are walking to and from tables for outdoor dining?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:21 AM

A: There are no rules specific to outdoor dining, therefore the number of sides down is not relevant in regards to the standards. Two sides up has been considered sufficient for ventilation to be considered an outdoor setting. -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:21 AM

A: Yes, masks need to be worn when not eating.-

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-Matthew Poole - 9:07 AM

Q: When the topic comes up, can someone comment on and summarize the outdoor retail mask requirements for outdoor retail (lumber yards, nurseries and garden centers)? Thank you.-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:22 AM

A: Retail standard requires face coverings at all times regardless of setting.

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-katie O'Neill - 9:10 AM

Q: Will golf guidance still be applicable? -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:22 AM

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A: No.-

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-Marina Lent - 9:12 AM

Q: Are masks still required on public transportation? If so, is this Only for unvaccinated people or for everyone-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:23 AM

A: Masks are still required. There is no exception based on vaccination status.-

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-Libby Levison - 9:12 AM

Q: Can you please repeat the DLS workplaces being rescinded?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:23 AM

A: Construction, Drive in Movie Theaters, Golf Facilities, Laboratories, Manufacturing, and Libraries

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-Marina Lent - 9:22 AM

Q: Masks on public transportation?-

-Mike Coughlin - 9:25 AM

A: Yes, the new face covering order still requires them in public locations and transportation is included in that category. -

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-Eileen Alexander - 9:14 AM

Q: Can you please review what was stated regarding Libraries-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:25 AM

A: Follow sectors not otherwise addressed standard. This means no quarantine for books.-

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-john garside - 9:15 AM

Q: What is guidance on masks and offices with vaccinated workers?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:27 AM

A: This has not changed. Face covering requirements in workplaces are not currently based on vaccination status. -

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-Sandra Martin - 9:17 AM

Q: Do Recreational Camps still follow those standards?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:27 AM

A: Yes-

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-Peggy Hart - 9:14 AM

Q: Will guidelines for serving food at social gatherings be addressed?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:26 AM

A: It is addressed in the Indoor and Outdoor Events standard-

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-Michael Nelson - 9:14 AM

Q: agricultural festivals go to 50% capacity in May. Does that refer to a fairgrounds or just an ag festival at a fairgrounds? For example, if a food truck festival were to take place at an agricultural fairgrounds, are they subject to 250 limit or 50%?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:27 AM

A: The capacity is based on the type of event and not the venue. A food truck event would have to follow the gatherings limit of 250.-

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-Alicia McCartin - 9:16 AM

Q: Would block parties be allowed in Phase IV, Step 2?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:27 AM

A: Yes, as an Outdoor Event-

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-brandon voga - 9:17 AM

Q: Will there be any adjustments to retail, restaurant, and grocery standards?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:28 AM

A: The standards that will take effect on May 10th are still in development. We will get you updates as soon as they are ready.-

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-Stephanie Granger - 9:18 AM

Q: Will the guidance for places of worship be updated soon?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:29 AM

A: The standards that will take effect on May 10th are still in development. We will get you updates as soon as they are ready.-

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-Rick Reuss - 9:22 AM

Q: a college is planning on a graduation for 1500 (student plus 2 guests) on a football field. does that come under evebts guidance or some other guidance?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:29 AM

A: Graduations should follow the Commencement and Graduation Ceremonies Held by Colleges and Universities, K-12 Public and Private Schools Standard-

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-Erin Hull - 9:20 AM

Q: I'm confused about outdoor exercise classes. If people are 6 ft apart or more, why would they still need masks? With masks not being required outside if you can distance. -

-Adam Kinney - 9:31 AM

A: The standard states this regardless of indoor or outdoor at this time: Customers are required to wear face coverings during fitness activity, including strenuous activity, and must maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet-

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-Maribeth Ting - 9:23 AM

Q: I've been asked about current burial guidance. is the restriction still 50 people? are tents allowed?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:31 AM

A: Religious cermonies outdoors have no capacity restriction. Tents would be allowed as long as two sides remain up for ventilation.-

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-susan mosler - 9:24 AM

Q: grocery store salad bar and food bins?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:31 AM

A: Still prohibited.-

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-Rae Dick - 9:25 AM

Q: Will their be a rescind letter or email for the guidances such as the library? Our library has been closed for almost a year. The town will want to see proof that the guidance is rescinded, not just that its not on the website anymore. Will we recieve something? Thanks again-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:32 AM

A: The Governor will issue an order, which can be found at mass.gov.-



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-Wes Chin - 9:27 AM

Q: Will face masks be required to be worn at all times by vendors and customers at outdoor Farmers' Markets? -

-Michael Flanagan - 9:32 AM

A: Yes, the retail standard applies-

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-Kristen Keller - 9:30 AM

Q: Will 50% Office Space capacity be increased?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:33 AM

A: The standards that will take effect on May 10th are still in development. We will get you updates as soon as they are ready.-

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-Jessica Cliff - 9:26 AM

Q: In regard to masks, is the only time you do not have to wear a mask is walking around outside or at a private residence? What about parks and playgrounds? It sounds like things like golfing, outside dining, sports games....are still requiring masks regardless of spacing. Thank you! -

-Adam Kinney - 9:33 AM

A: Once the standards are updated we will know in what settings masks are required outdoors.-

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-Douglas Telling - 9:35 AM

Q: Are face coverings still required when entering store/restaurant/business?-

-Adam Kinney - 9:35 AM

A: Yes-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:35 AM

A: Yes-

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-Laura DelleChiaie - 9:36 AM

Q: Is anything being changed in regards to fitness standards as of May 10th? (i.e., locker room use and capacity limits) Thank you.-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:35 AM

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A: The standards that will take effect on May 10th are still in development. We will get you updates as soon as they are ready.-

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-Lauren Sawyer - 9:29 AM

Q: I assume that the DESE guidelines do not apply to recess, correct? I know that it states "classroom" & "bus". -

-Anne Marie Stronach - 9:45 AM

A: Correct-

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-lauren kennedy - 9:50 AM

Q: are craft fairs allowed to open and if so, what standard do they follow-

-Adam Kinney - 9:46 AM

A: A craft fair would fall under retail-

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-lauren kennedy - 9:55 AM

Q: if the craft fair is outside in a setting such as a parking lot or yard , how should it calculate capacity to comply with retail standards?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:52 AM

A: square footage-

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-Kalene Gendron - 9:41 AM

Q: Parades - 250 capacity, is this both attendees and parade vendors?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:53 AM

A: Parades are not subject to the 250 limit, but instead 50% of previous year - this is for attendees-