

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/11/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Katie Reilly, and Laurie Courtney, 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:

Vaccine for 12-15 year olds: FDA lowered the age of eligible populations for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to 12 years old and older. DPH greatly discourages people from vaccinating 12-15 year olds right now, wait until the ACIP meets on Wednesday to discuss recommendations, and to provide their recommendations to CDC. Once CDC approves any recommendations, guidance will be issued by CDC (expecting this on Thursday) and MDPH. Thursday or Friday, MDPH will also be sharing communications and guidance.

Q: Can 12-15 year olds sign up through pre-registration?

A: 12-15 year olds can pre-register, and once the eligibility changes, they'll get further instructions to go ahead and book.

Q: Are private drug stores allowed to advertise vaccinations for age groups 12 years old and up?

A: Strongly discouraged by DPH, and pharmacies that are doing the vaccinations right now are following directions from the federal government. They should be following CDC guidance, and since CDC hasn't approved it yet for 12-15 year olds, then they shouldn't be administering the vaccine.

EEA guidance update: Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Guidance—moderate risk and higher risk sports can now play in tournaments. Out-of-state travel restrictions are lifted. Spectators—are now allowed for players 21 years old and up, up to 50% capacity and not more than 500 persons (large capacity venues may submit plan to DPH). Tailgating in parking lot is allowed. Restrictions on water fountains are removed, all types of spigots are now open. Face coverings—not required for low and moderate risk sports when outdoors, and where social distancing can be maintained. Spectators and staff are subject to requirements in the statewide mask order. Face coverings requirements for Indoor and Outdoor sports:

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Indoors: low risk sports and 14 ft distance maintained, face covering not required (e.g. singles tennis, individual gymnastics). Face covering required indoors for other sports.

Outdoors: low and moderate risk sports and 6ft distancing, face covering not required (e.g. tennis, golf, horse riding, motor sports, baseball, softball). Face coverings must be worn when in a huddle, on the bench, and start/finish lines. Coaches must wear face coverings since function of the coach will be closer than 6ft. Umpires/refs can remove face covering when more than 6 ft apart. 6ft distance requirements in dugouts have been removed.

Swimming Pool changes: saunas/hot tubs permitted to open starting 8/1; face coverings required while indoors (except while in pool and in outdoor decks when 6ft distancing can be maintained). Site can operate at 50% facility capacity. Can now be more than 2 persons per lane.

Q: Based on updated standards, are semi public pools required to have pool monitors to enforce covid standards?

A: If it is a pool that is traditionally not staffed, they are not required to have staffing for covid related requirements. They can utilize signage at all entrances to inform pool users about capacity restrictions and other requirements.

Q: Boxing indoors but with garage door open?

A: High risk sport, need to wear mask regardless if they're indoors or outdoors.

Q: Yoga classes and outdoor fitness classes?

A: Gym or fitness center does not fall under EEA guidance. Specific classes, they'll have to maintain distance of at least 6 ft if outdoors.

Q: Indoor hockey, still need 6ft distancing on the bench?

A: Yes.

DLS Standards Updates:

Road Races—there is no sector standard for road races. Use the information below based on EEA Sports and Events guidance.

-Occupancy—there is no occupancy limit. Race Director will submit plan that demonstrates distancing will be planned and maintained from start to finish. There is no occupancy cap on the “staggered start”.

-Face coverings are expected at start/finish lines and packet pickups.

-Self-serve unwrapped foods are discouraged (i.e. cut bananas, pickles, orange slices).

Wrapped foods are acceptable.

-Water stations: shared water jugs discouraged (athletes putting hands on spigot to fill their own cup). Small cups of water may be placed on table for athlete to pick up themselves.

-Food trucks will be allowed, and food must be consumed while seated.

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-Beer tents, after May 29th alcohol will be allowed without food, but drinks will need to be consumed while seated.

Parades and Festivals—there is no sector standard for parades, street festivals, and agricultural festivals.

- Occupancy—there is NO occupancy cap on parades, street, and agricultural festivals.
- Face coverings—spectators and marchers do not require face coverings when distanced. For street/agricultural festivals, face covering required when 6ft distance cannot be maintained.
- Food trucks must follow restaurant standard. There is no COVID restriction on number of food trucks.
- Beer truck/tents are allowed, and on 5/29 food purchase will no longer be required for alcohol purchases, but seated service still required until 8/1.
- Amusement rides are allowed and a plan must be submitted to DPH for review.

Retail changes—clothing will no longer need to be quarantined or steam cleaned. This has been updated on sector standards online. Shared equipment, such as cash registers, tagging machines no longer need to be disinfected before use by another employee. Cleaning products (sanitizer, wipes) no longer required to be provided to employees. Frequent cleaning is no longer required. No longer needed to “shut down area” after COVID-19 positive employee. Follow CDC guidance. Dedicated hours for senior no longer required, but recommended.

The following retail requirements stay the same:

- Indoor and outdoor (flea and farmer’s markets) retail are going to be treated the same.
- Face coverings are still required in retail settings.
- Occupancy is 50%. For outdoor settings where occupancy is not posted, use 10 persons per 1,000 sqft (approx. 436 persons per acre.)

Restaurants—Indoor singing is now allowed. Now use same singing rules for indoors and outdoors. Restriction on self-serve condiments and utensils removed. Menus can now be in any format. Restriction on buzzers removed. Requirement to clean tables and chairs between each seating is removed. Recommendation of patrons being from the same household has been removed. Valet restrictions removed. Keeping contact info of someone in a party for a period of two weeks still stands. Frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces requirement removed. Cleaning logs requirement removed.

The following restaurant requirements stay the same:

- face coverings for staff, even if vaccinated.
- table size of 6 people, increases to 10 persons on 5/29.
- bar seating is allowed, with distancing to protect staff and other customers.
- 90 minute limit.

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- food required with first alcohol purchase, this changes on 5/29.
- food and drink must be consumed while seated, this will not change on 5/29.

Indoor/outdoor events—indoor singing is now allowed. Use [same singing rules](#) for indoors and outdoors. Singers must be 25 ft from customers; all performers must be 10 ft from other performers; plexiglass does not reduce required distance between performers or between performers and the audience; performers are to wear face coverings when feasible. Restrictions on self-serve condiments and utensils removed, this includes food trucks. Menu restrictions are removed, and can now be in any format. Requirement to clean tables and chairs between each seating is removed, this included food trucks. Cleaning logs no longer need to be kept and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces is no longer required.

The following event requirements stay the same:

- Indoor and outdoor events are treated the same
- Vaccinated and unvaccinated persons are treated the same
- Face coverings required for staff and attendees, even if vaccinated
- Drink/food service to guests who are standing is allowed.
- Table size, when seated attendees should be in groups of not more than 6
- 90 minute limit does not apply to events
- Self-serve, unattended buffet, topping bars, drink station and communal serving areas must remain closed.

Catering at events—passed food and beverage service is allowed to guests who are standing and can be consumed while standing. Replace face covering when eating is completed, not in-between bites. An attended buffet is still required. Self-serve condiments are allowed. Tables can be preset. Platters at tables are now allowed, such as bread basket, butter, gravy, salad dressing, ketchup, and creamer can be passed at the table. Large platter of appetizers/entrees can also be passed family style at the same table. Guests can refill their own water glasses from a common pitcher at the table.

Places of Worship—no changes issued as of May 10, 2021 but have been receiving a lot of questions.

-Occupancy—indoors, 50% of the building’s maximum permitted occupancy limit. When this occupancy is not known, do not use the 10 per 1,000 sqft formula unless the formula allows for a greater number. Indoor small rooms that do not have an occupancy limit should use 10 per 1000 sqft formula. For outdoor events, there is no occupancy limit.

-Indoor singing—allowed. Do NOT use the Theater and Performance standard for distancing.

- Luncheons, dinners, and other functions—use the [Event standard](#).
- Communal gatherings pre/post services are still prohibited (e.g. coffee hours)

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-Membership List—if an attendee or staff is COVID-positive, the place of worship is required to notify BOH and assist in contact tracing. Provision of a membership list to BOH/CTC is not required.

May 29th, new updates will be released.

Q: Carpooling—face coverings still required?

A: Yes.

Q: Outdoor fitness classes?

A: Under the current standards for fitness centers, it does not distinguish between indoor/outdoor classes, it does say that masks need to be worn during strenuous exercise when at a fitness center.

Q: Camp guidance?

A: working on this, no date at this time.

Q: Has guidance for town meetings been updated since November 2020?

A: Guidance has not been updated, however the mask guidance was updated in [Order #67](#), and in this order it specifies that in an event at a public location (any place open to the public—a town meeting by law must be open to the public) face masks are required at all times. While the definition of public location makes a distinction between indoors and outdoors, the order goes on to state that if you are holding an event, whether it's indoors or outdoors, masks/face coverings must be worn at all times.

Q: As of 5/29, when alcohol can be served without food, can social clubs that act as bars still be allowed to open?

A: DLS expects that bars can be open, however, all drink must be consumed while seated. Required to follow the COVID-19 restaurant standards, more to come when 5/29 approaches.

Q: Face coverings still need to be worn in municipal offices?

A: Yes.

Q: Farmer's markets—retail standards online say something different than what was said today.

A: That information is incorrect. Working to take it down.

Q: Cleaning guidelines also apply to schools?

A: Cleaning guidance is aligned with CDC cleaning guidelines. If CDC changes, then we will also encourage people to follow CDC guidelines.

Q: If self serve condiments are allowed, then runners should be able to use the water spigot?

A: That's not how these road race standards are written.

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Q: Will there be any standards at all still in place on August 1st?

A: Businesses can operate without covid restrictions, although there might be some items that will remain in place such as face coverings.

Q: Occupancy limits with traveling carnivals?

A: These will be treated the same way as a festival, and festivals do not have a hard capacity limit.

Vaccine Communication Resources: New [CDC fact sheets about J&J vaccine](#). These can be used by providers or with the public to discuss the safety of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. Available data indicates the vaccine's very large benefits outweigh the risks. Also CDC documents about "[Best Practices for Community and Faith-based Organizations](#)". Additional COVID-19 vaccine documents available through [MDPH](#).

Other updates: Public Health Council Meeting tomorrow at 9 am, there will be an update on the COVID-19 community impact survey. Meeting will be held via WebEx if you want to learn more.

<https://statema.webex.com/statema/onstage/g.php?MTID=e570631599fof8795e938b8f2fd9oc42d> Dial in number: 866-692-3580 Access code: 161 129 1568

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

-Camille Griffin - 3:03 PM

Q: Will the Places of Worships sector standards be updated to reflect the new capacity restrictions in the Indoor/Outdoor event standards?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:06 PM

A: I am not 100% sure what this question means. They are 2 separate standards. Please email me at adam.kinney@mass.gov with more information-

-Erin Hightower - 3:08 PM

Q: Is the dose for 12 to 15-year-olds anticipated to be the same as a 16+?-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:10 PM

A: Yes-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:12 PM

A: The EUAs are already available at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine->

-Jill Conselino - 3:10 PM

Q: can this information be updated please in the EEA document that just went out on the spectator guidance for facemasks please?-

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-Adam Kinney - 3:11 PM

A: it is updated here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iv-step-1-updated-51021/download->

-Frank Giacalone - 3:11 PM

Q: How about OUTDOOR fitness classes, spin, yoga etc... are face masks required and at what distance 6'? What about outdoor distancing at 14'?

-Adam Kinney - 3:12 PM

A: Fitness classes still fall under the fitness center and health clubs standards. They have not changed and masks are still required indoors or outdoors for classes-

-Garrett Simonsen - 3:12 PM

Q: Is the state working with the vendor that supports the Color registration system to prepare updates to the system to allow for appointments to be scheduled for youth 12-15? Currently the system prevents registration for this population.-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:13 PM

A: I was informed that Individuals 12-15 can preregister now for vaccination by visiting mass.gov and receive an email with booking instructions as soon as this expanded eligibility begins.-

-Deborah Vondal - 3:13 PM

Q: Fitness center holding outdoor workouts, individuals spaced 14 feet apart- do they still need to wear face coverings?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:15 PM

A: currently yes, when they are part of a class being held outside for a fitness center-

-Pamela Ciccone - 3:14 PM

Q: A private drug store is advertising a clinic to vaccinate age 12 and up. Is this allowed now? -

-Laurie Courtney - 3:17 PM

A: It is strongly discouraged. Although authorized by FDA, it has not been approved by ACIP/CDC. -

-Ned Saviski - 3:15 PM

Q: Do food trucks need to provide seating at outdoor events?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:17 PM

A: They can do take out, however, people aren't supposed to be walking around and eating with their masks down, while eating-

-Jim Abare - 3:18 PM

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Q: Has the Guidance for Town Meetings been updated since the November 23, 2020 update? If not, are any updates anticipated? -

-Mike Coughlin - 3:18 PM

A: It has not been updated. We don't know if they will be.-

-Deborah Vondal - 3:17 PM

Q: YMCA outdoor workout fitness classes , do they still need face coverings if they are appropriately spaced? -

-Adam Kinney - 3:18 PM

A: Yes, YMCA is ia fitness center and those standards do not currently allow the removal of masks indoors or outdoors-

-Alyssa Rusiecki - 3:15 PM

Q: Is 6' spacing required for lacrosse "programs?"-

-Gerben Scherpbier - 3:19 PM

A: They are allowed to be within 6 feet of one another, however face coverings would be required (for full contact lacrosse, which is a higher risk sport, they must wear face coverings at all times)-

-17742129010 Lewis - 3:20 PM

Q: If all cooks in a kitchen are fully vaccinated but cannot keep 6 feet, are masks still required?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:20 PM

A: Yes, there has been no change in mask requirements for vaccinated people in the standards-

-Jill Conselino - 3:15 PM

Q: would recreational dance classes that are held indoors still require facemasks by the participants?-

-Gerben Scherpbier - 3:21 PM

A: yes, unless participants are doing individual dance and maintain greater than 14ft of distance. -

-Meghan Doherty - 3:20 PM

Q: As of May 29th when they allow for alcohol to be served without food...will Social Clubs that operate just as "bars", be able to operate regularly or will they still only be permitted to be open under restaurant guidelines?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:21 PM

A: On May 29th they will be able to open, but follow the restaurant standards with seated service and 90 minute time limits. Just food requirements are will be removed-

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-Shuang Shen - 3:18 PM

Q: I am wondering if higher risk sports like soccer and lax still do have to wear face coverings??

Thanks.-

-Gerben Scherpbier - 3:22 PM

A: yes, higher risk sports still require face coverings at all times. (however soccer is listed as a moderate risk sport)-

-Richard Rossi - 3:22 PM

Q: Church baptisms with a preacher an assistant and the person being baptized. Would this be allowed?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:24 PM

A: Baptism falls under Places of Worship standards-

-Meghan Doherty - 3:25 PM

Q: Will restaurants and social clubs be able to remove the tables that sit up against the bar come May 29th or will those still be required to be there?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:25 PM

A: They are going to still be required to follow the restaurant standards that will be updated prior to 5/29. Unfortunately I don't know what the answer is here-

-Jill Conselino - 3:24 PM

Q: does all soccer require face coverings? looking at youth soccer for the younger kids ages 4-7/8, do they need to wear face coverings?-

-Gerben Scherpbier - 3:27 PM

A: Soccer is listed as a moderate risk sport. Face coverings are only required when players cannot maintain social distancing. Individual teams, leagues, etc. may elect to require them at all times. -

-AnneMarie Fleming - 3:25 PM

Q: are contact logs still required at municipal offices and libraries?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:27 PM

A: Yes-

-Peggy White - 3:26 PM

Q: Are the cleaning standards changing for office sector guidelines ie as far as cleaning frequently touched surfaces-

-Adam Kinney - 3:28 PM

A: Office standards have not changed since March 18-

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-Marykate Franks - 3:27 PM

Q: To confirm, Farmer's Markets now fall under Retail Standards, correct? I was confused by the following language in the Standard, "These standards apply, until rescinded or amended by the State, to all Retail Businesses except for Farmers' Markets, which shall continue to be governed by Department of Public Health Guidance." Thanks!-

-Adam Kinney - 3:28 PM

A: Correct-

-Brian Chapdelaine - 3:31 PM

Q: Does the condiment change also pertain to self-serving beverage stations?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:30 PM

A: No the self serve beverage stations have not changed-

-Heather Gallant - 3:28 PM

Q: for bar seating, is plexiglass still required?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:30 PM

A: Yes, if the bar is staffed or is an active work station-

-jeff vaughan - 3:31 PM

Q: do bars need plexi if active and people are seated at bar?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:31 PM

A: If there is not 6 feet between the patrons and the staff, yes-

-Frank Giacalone - 3:32 PM

Q: BAR SEATING on 5/29 when food is not required and bar seating is ok, CAN a divider BETWEEN customers be installed to reduce the 6' spacing between parties at the bar (Since New guidelines state bar need to follow restaurant guidelines where this IS allowed between tables)-

-Adam Kinney - 3:32 PM

A: We do not know what the new standards will look like but it is not allowed in the current standards-

-Michele Schuckel - 3:15 PM

Q: When can we anticipate early/preliminary guidance around 2021-22 school year planning r/t COVID-19 particularly around best practices for testing or thoughts on surveillance vs. symptomatic testing? Early thoughts helpful for budget planning around staffing and test costs. Thanks!-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:33 PM

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A: Hello Michele, I don't have an exact timeline but DESE is working on planning now for the fall. -

-Mark Morin - 3:32 PM

Q: My town hall has not opened restrooms to the public yet. May they open again without extra cleaning requirements?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:35 PM

A: They would require regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of high touch areas-

-Jessica Cliff - 3:35 PM

Q: Should social clubs and bars plan on purchasing plexi glass come 5/29? Many are asking what they can do to prepare ahead of time. Will guidelines be released in advance to allow for planning? Thank you! -

-Adam Kinney - 3:35 PM

A: We don't know-

-Mary Dozois - 3:52 PM

A: On 5/29 drinks will need to be consumed while seated. Tables must be 6 ft apart - follow the Restaurant requirements for seating. Plexi is not mandatory in every restaurant, only when 6ft cannot be maintained between customer groups or customer/staff.-

-Deborah Vondal - 3:35 PM

Q: Any updates to office guidelines?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:36 PM

A: Office standards are the same as when released on March 18th-

-Laura DelleChiaie - 3:36 PM

Q: Hello, sector specific guidelines do not yet show updates (i.e., restaurants). When will the guidelines show these updates? Thanks!-

-Adam Kinney - 3:37 PM

A: They are all updated in the website-

-Randy Suckney - 3:37 PM

Q: Can you eat and drink during Bingo?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:38 PM

A: Bingo falls under events, which allows eating or drinking-

-andrea Jachimczyk - 3:37 PM

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Q: Can a choir sing in a place of worship? It just says indoor singing. Just one person or choir permitted?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:39 PM

A: Singing by a choir is allowed in a place of worship when it is part of the religious worship-

-Joanne Belanger - 3:38 PM

Q: at places of worship - if they don't have to abide by the 25 feet distance for singing - how far should they be. what is the recommendation?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:40 PM

A: The 25 feet is for theater and performance and not places of worship-

-Julia Pingitore - 3:42 PM

Q: are cleaning logs still required in office settings-

-Adam Kinney - 3:42 PM

A: Yes they are still required-

-Alyssa Kaiser - 3:38 PM

Q: Houses of Worship: Are individuals allowed to remove mask if speaking at microphone. Six foot distance from others -

-Mary Dozois - 3:45 PM

A: Yes-

-Ruth Clay - 3:44 PM

Q: Does the new cleaning info apply to office spaces?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:45 PM

A: No, office standards have not changed-

-Erin Kirchner - 3:43 PM

Q: Does the mask requirement at public events (such as an outdoor town meeting) allow for someone speaking at a socially distanced microphone to remove his or her mask temporarily?-

-Mary Dozois - 3:46 PM

A: Yes, for audibility. Replace face mask immediately when finished talking-

-Alyssa Rusiecki - 3:46 PM

Q: Just to clarify - high touch surface cleaning is no longer required, correct? And self service of ketchup and mustard, etc. is allowed, correct?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:47 PM

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A: The standards state: Clean commonly touched surfaces in restrooms(e.g.,toilet seats, door knobs, stall handles,sinks, paper towel dispensers, soap dispensers) frequently and in accordance with CDC guidelines-

-Samantha Hardy - 3:43 PM

Q: Does a dance class (falling under sports guidance) have to maintain 6 foot distance between students? -

-Gerben Scherpbier - 3:49 PM

A: no. For example partner dancing is allowed. (and face coverings are required)-

-Ruth Clay - 3:51 PM

Q: I still don't understand about office spaces. Since you are saying there are no changes does that mean that retail stores don't need to do the cleaning but office spaces do?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:52 PM

A: There is still cleaning requirements, its just not as extensive as it was with things like the fitting rooms-