

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/18/2021



## 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
- Jennifer Robertson, Bureau of Environmental Health
- 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
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Thomas Lyons and Kristina Crandall, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Chelsey Cummings, Federal Emergency Management Agency

### **Announcements:**

**FEMA funeral assistance benefit program:** Included in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Program began accepting applications for its Funeral Assistance Program on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Amount one can receive is \$9,000 per funeral, and a maximum of \$35,000 if applicants have more than one death in the family. Massachusetts has created [a funeral assistance page](#) where information can also be found if you need access to a death certificate and how to amend one. Example, someone passed early in the pandemic and did not have COVID-19 as a cause of death, but they did die from COVID-19. Very easy to apply, applications only through phone lines right now at 1 844-684-6333. TTY #: 1 800-462-7585. More information can be found on [www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance).

**Recreational Camps:** Updated standards replaced the document issued in early March. The specific cohort requirement is removed, and there is now a strong recommendation to limit group sizes. Masks not required outdoors; unvaccinated individuals advised to continue to wear face coverings indoors. Testing no longer required for overnight camps, recommended if they intend to allow unmasked, unvaccinated individuals indoors. Moves most standards to "Advised Best Practices". Mandates are generally in line with requirement in the Rec. Camp Code (105 CMR 430) and Reportable Disease Requirements (105 CMR 300).

**Q:** YMCA camps, still required to have 2 nurses to check in the day campers?

**A:** There was a requirement last summer that everyone entering the camp needed to be screened, but this is now a recommendation. Camps must have 2 healthcare supervisors, and

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these individuals can be physicians, PAs, NPs, nurses, someone over 18 years old with some medical skill.

**Q:** Distancing requirements at overnight camps?

**A:** No.

**Reopening Massachusetts:** Massachusetts is on track to meet the goal set in December to fully vaccinate over 4 million people by the first week in June. The Commonwealth leads the nation in vaccinating residents, with 75% of adults receiving at least one dose. To date, over 4 million residents have received a first dose, with 3.2 million fully vaccinated. Around 92% of people are returning to get their second dose. New cases have dropped by 89% since January 8<sup>th</sup>. COVID hospitalizations are down 88% since January 1<sup>st</sup>, and the positive test rate is down by 88% from peaking at 8.7% on January 1<sup>st</sup> to 1% today. These metrics have allowed the Commonwealth to lift all restrictions on May 29<sup>th</sup>, and lift the State of Emergency by June 15<sup>th</sup>. All industries will be open, and capacity will increase to 100%. ALL COVID-19 restrictions (besides the face mask restrictions) will be lifted. This includes the distance between tables at restaurants, and social distancing requirements. Industries are encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.

**Face covering guidance:** Face coverings still mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (federal law), in healthcare facilities, and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care setting (nursing homes, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, more info [here](#)). Non-vaccinated people are advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings. Face coverings will also remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers. Businesses can still set face mask requirements.

**Youth and Amateur sports Face Covering Guidance:** May 18<sup>th</sup>, no longer requires face coverings for youth athletes 18 years and under when playing outdoor sports. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, all youth and amateur sports restrictions will be lifted. Spectators are not required to wear face coverings if they're outdoors and able to socially distance.

**Q:** Face coverings in public meetings?

**A:** If you're outdoors and able to socially distance, you do not need to use a face covering. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, you do not need to wear a face covering. If your municipality wants to require face coverings, this would be a local action taken by municipal leadership.

**Q:** COVID safety plans?

**A:** If submitted before May 29<sup>th</sup>, then yes, they should be reviewed. But no State requirement.

**Vaccine updates:** [Pfizer now approved for 12-15 year old](#) (Moderna and J&J should only be used for 18 years and older). Additional updates ([CDC page](#)), standing orders and vaccine administration preparation summary, co-administration with other vaccines, vaccinated people who subsequently develop COVID-19 disease, people with a history of thrombosis or risk for

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thrombosis, use of aspirin or anticoagulants, people vaccinated outside of the United States, and Appendix A: Errors and Deviations Table.

### **Contact Tracing Questions:**

**Q:** What is the protocol going to be for schools, will students who are within 6 ft and not wearing masks (outside) going to need to quarantine or not?

**A:** [DESE released an updated FAQ](#), and in the FAQ it says that close contacts exposed to a COVID-19 + individual while outdoors at recess do not need to quarantine.

**Q:** What is the status of the CTC, when will their contract run out?

**A:** CTC contract will continue to September, but are reviewed in 3 month increments and at that time will be reviewed if continued assistance is needed.

**Schools Questions:** Unless DESE tells you that things have changed, they have not changed.

**Q:** Are masks still required for outside singing/band?

**A:** No need even if distance cannot be maintained.

**Q:** Will guidance for proms and graduations change too?

**A:** Guidance will be issued soon.

**Q:** If we hold a senior night off of school property in June, do we follow the guidelines set forth for an indoor event? Because it is school sponsored, do the students still need to be masked and maintain social distancing?

**A:** After May 29<sup>th</sup>, restrictions will be lifted if the event is off school property. If there are any restrictions set by the event venue, people will need to follow those. All limits/sector specific guidance will be lifted on May 29<sup>th</sup>

**Q:** Masks still required for school buses and transport for sports and recreational programs?

**A:** Yes.

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

**Q:** Does the State of Emergency being lifted affect who can give vaccines?

**A:** Will loop back.

**Q:** On Page 2 of the press release under [Face Covering Guidelines](#), the end of the second paragraph mentions "certain situations". Can you clarify that and what could be some examples of this?

**A:** Details on the website.

**Q:** Can virtual meetings continue past May 29<sup>th</sup> or June 15<sup>th</sup> to be in compliance with OML?

**A:** Should be in person, but Mass Municipal Association is trying to fix this legislatively because it's been such a success, and meeting participation has increased because of this option. Another piece that is concerning is how to meet the quorum. Lieutenant Governor made it clear that she's looking to find a fix.

**Q:** What, if any, restrictions will still be in place after May 29<sup>th</sup>?

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**A:** DLS is going to rescind COVID related regulations, and all restrictions on industries are lifted.

**Q:** Will outdoor dining be extended?

**A:** In order for it to continue, local bylaw or ordinance will have to be amended. The timing of this is challenging, because would need to be done within next 2 months, and unless you're hosting a special town meeting, it would be very difficult to "fix it" locally. Mass Municipal Association is looking at trying to fix it legislatively. The Administration appears willing to support this process, or at the least not oppose it.

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

-Beth Grossman - 3:12 PM

**Q:** Will eating and drinking walking around outdoor farmers market be allowed after may 29?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:23 PM

**A:** Yes-

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-Sandra Martin - 3:20 PM

**Q:** Can LBOH require unvaccinated individuals inside to be masked?-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:23 PM

**A:** Yes. Cities and towns can be stricter than the state. Lt. Gov. Polito reiterated this on a call today.-

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-Flor Amaya - 3:23 PM

**Q:** After the state of emergency is lifted, will restaurants serving alcohol outdoors be required to get a permit to continue serving? -

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:27 PM

**A:** Conversations are happening right now with the ABCC about this. Right now, there is a 60 grace period after the State of Emergency is lifted. The MMA is working on making some legislative changes because they don't think that is enough time to make the necessary bylaw/ordinance changes locally.-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:27 PM

**A:** ABCC is working on this issue. We will let you know once a final rule has been established.-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:28 PM

**A:** I should have said 60 DAY grace period. Sorry.-

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-Beth Grossman - 3:32 PM

**Q:** I did not hear the answer to 62 plus apartments w communal dining room need masks-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:33 PM

**A:** they don't.-

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-Mike Coughlin - 3:36 PM

A: after May 29 -

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-Alyssa Rusiecki - 3:39 PM

Q: After May 29th, 2021, are self service at buffets allowed?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:41 PM

A: Yes,-

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-Camille Griffin - 3:40 PM

Q: So the Sector Specific Safety Standards are being rescinded May 29th?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:41 PM

A: Yes-

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-Mark Morin - 3:40 PM

Q: What is the Commonwealth's rationale for waiting until May 29th instead of sooner for lifting masking requirements as CDC has already issued their guidance-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:42 PM

A: This is meant to give businesses, organizations, and individuals a chance to prepare for the changes. It will be a significant transition for some people and this will give them a chance to prepare for that change.-

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-Andrew Ting - 3:39 PM

Q: When you say "vaccinated individual" I assume you mean the person has finished the series per manufacturer plus 2 weeks?-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:44 PM

A: correct-

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-DOUGALS KRESS - 3:42 PM

Q: Are masks required for youth athletes while on the sideline?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:44 PM

A: no.-

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-Aimee Petrosky - 3:13 PM

Q: In the new youth sport and High school sport guidance... I interpret them to say under 18 and engaged in a sport no mask. Spectator who can keep 6 feet no mask. Coaches, ref, ump etc. Masked until 5/27 or further guidance. Is this a correct interpretation?

-Mike Coughlin - 3:48 PM

A: That is correct. -

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-Adrienne Klein - 3:45 PM

Q: As the state of emergency is ending, how is that effecting evictions. Most peoples circumstances haven't changed just because masks are no longer required...-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:50 PM

A: MAHB will be providing education on evictions.-

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-Kerry Stockwell - 3:49 PM

Q: Hello. Plexi glass in school / businesses/ can it be removed??

-Michael Flanagan - 3:52 PM

A: Barriers will not be required in businesses after May 29th.-

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-Kathleen Carney - 3:50 PM

Q: I thought Jana said umpires, refs, etc have to mask only if cannot distance. Is that correct?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:55 PM

A: correct.-

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-Patricia Smith - 4:00 PM

Q: Can you please clarify? Singing, band, performing arts outdoors are now allowed with no masks and distancing?-

-Adam Kinney - 4:00 PM

A: They still need to follow the standards with distancing until May 29th for theater and performance. -

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-Ellen DuPont - 4:01 PM

Q: so vaccinated and unvaccinated don't have to wear masks after may 29 is this correct n-

-Michael Flanagan - 4:02 PM

A: No, there are settings where everyone (vaccinated and unvaccinated) will still need to wear masks. See earlier slides.-

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-Richard Metcalf - 4:04 PM

Q: If prom is being held on school campus, but outside, will face coverings be required?-

-Mike Coughlin - 4:05 PM

A: new prom guidance will be distributed soon. -

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-Aaron Langlois - 3:45 PM

Q: Can a LBOH grant a variance on any Rec Camps regulations now since these COVID business requirements and State of Emergency are ending by June 15th. Respectfully, DPH is still

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continuing mandatory rules on Recreational Camps related to COVID - that were not present prior to COVID. Requiring 2 health care supervisors is more than the current requirement of 1. -

-Jana Ferguson - 4:06 PM

A: Yes-

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-Alicia Bryant - 4:06 PM

Q: To clarify, can students at school now sing outdoors without a mask on and no distancing requirements? -

-Mike Coughlin - 4:06 PM

A: yes-