

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Dawn Fukuda, Glynnis LaRosa, Laurie Courtney, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Michael Flanagan and Mary Dozois, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt, Anne Gilligan, and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Robin Lipson, Kathryn Downes, and Amanda Bernardo, Executive Office of Elder 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:

Executive Office of Elder Affairs: Created a planning tool for the aging services network that may assist in preparing for the scaling up of operations. Released to the ASAP/AAA and COA network on April 28th. The planning tool is a 16 page PDF document related to four common scenarios, such as in-person one-on-one and group activities. It centralizes and curates relevant existing federal and state guidance and includes potential questions for organizations to consider in partnership with municipal leadership, local boards of health, boards of directors, and relevant trade associations. The planning tool should not be considered guidance or regulation and does not offer interpretation or translation of guidance.

General considerations--For all planning there are eight general categories to consider: Preventive measures; Space and layout; Vaccination status; Transportation and Travel; Mental and Behavioral Health; Technology Use; Communications and Outreach; Return to office/work. Throughout the tool, aging services networks should think about reopening/new normal with an equity lens and to use public health data to guide local decisions.

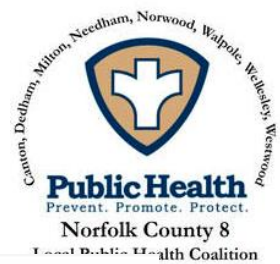
Four common scenarios: Common scenarios likely to apply to Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs), Councils on Aging, and other aging services providers/community-based organizations.

Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
One-on-One In-Person Activities	Congregate Dining	Group In-Person Activities (Active)	Group In-Person Activities (Passive)
Examples: Social Visiting, Wellness Checks, Individual Counseling	Examples: Group Meals, Lunch Socials	Examples: Fitness Class, Card Games	Examples: Speaker Series, Movie Screening

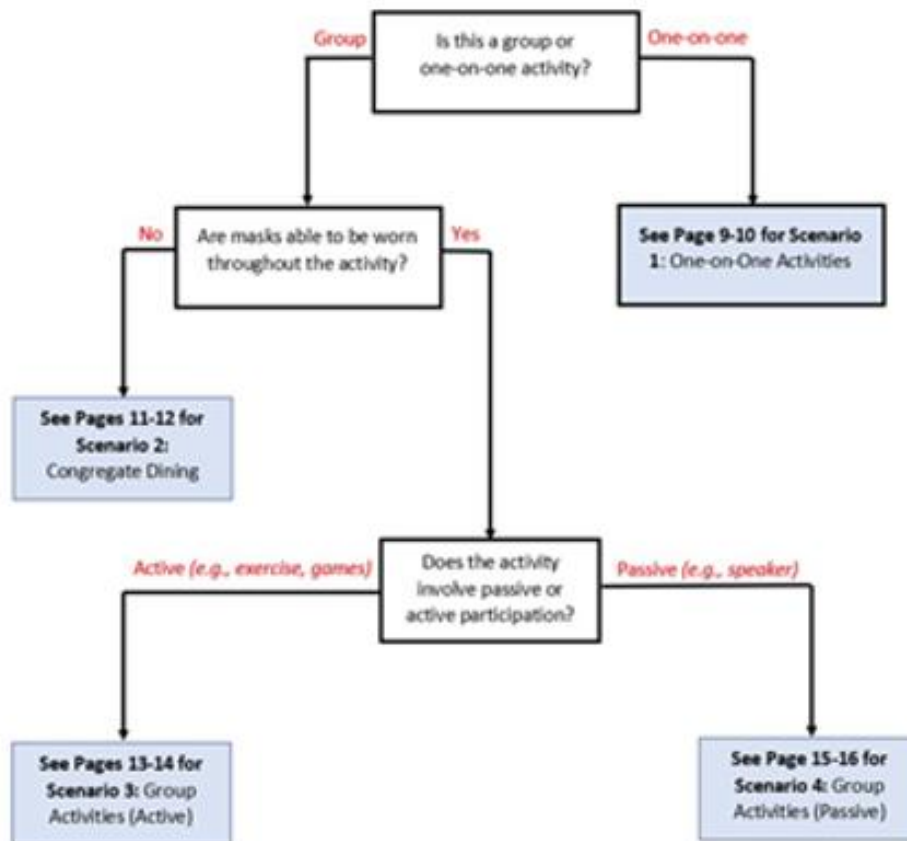
Each scenario includes links to **potentially helpful guidance**, **select language that may be most relevant**, and a **list of questions or considerations** to think about for reopening.

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



Decision Tree to Assist in Planning



DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

The planning guide focuses on “what are you doing in this space and how can you make it safe?” and not so focused on whether a person has been vaccinated or not.

Q: Will this be a living document, and changed over time? As we move through the reopening, will this be updated?

A: Not on an everyday basis, but as updates happen, yes, we will be updating it as we move through the steps and phases.

Q: Receiving a lot of questions about playing bridge from the COA, particularly if they sit at a 6 ft table and can't see each other's cards, can they sit closer if they use a divider and a mask?

A: If you are within 6ft apart, you should be masked, but maybe there are ways to allow to play bridge safely, that's a local board of health question.

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



Massachusetts vaccine efforts: Massachusetts is a national leader for vaccine distribution across every national metric, hospitalizations and new positive cases have decreased—particularly among our most vulnerable residents. By the beginning of June, 4.1 million residents are set to be fully vaccinated. Baker’s administration will continue to adapt vaccine efforts to be more targeted and will shift vaccines to smaller scale operations focusing on certain populations and specific communities.

Next phase of vaccine efforts:

- Providing all 22 regional collaboratives with doses to fully operate their programs.
- Doubling the state vaccine allocation for our 20 most disproportionately impacted communities
- Working with the Mass Medical Society to increase access of vaccines with additional primary care provider by mid-May. This effort will require affirming complex storage and scheduling logistics to ensure all doses are put to good use.
- Expanding mobile vaccine clinics in our 20 most disproportionately impacted communities at senior centers, houses of worship, and other community-based organizations. Over 21k doses have been administered through the mobile vaccination clinics managed by DPH (7 local contractors, work closely to the request of LBOH) in Boston, Chelsea, Brockton, Fall River, Springfield and New Bedford. Mobile clinics have been effective in our equity communities and reaching people of color. So far, 61% of vaccine recipients at these clinics have been people of color.
- Working with current providers and community partners to offer new vaccine clinic opportunities.

New Regional Collaboratives: The Metro North Regional Collaborative’s three new clinics at the Encore Casino in Everett, Tufts Campus in Medford, and at the Cambridge Health Alliance in Somerville. Boston Medical Center’s new vaccine scheduling location at South Bay. Mobile clinics in Lynn, New Bedford, Worcester, and Fall River at local churches and temples in different languages. Brockton’s clinic at the Westgate Mall and at municipal housing complexes.

Mass Vax Sites: The Administration will gradually close four of the state’s seven mass vax sites by the end of June due to their leases expiring. Gillette Stadium, Hynes Convention Center, Double Tree in Danvers, and the Natick Mall. Walk-ins will be accepted at select mass vax sites, information about availability will be reflected on vaxfinder.mass.gov soon. Appointments for some sites will also be available at vaxfinder.mass.gov or by calling 211.

Pre-registration: Over 1.8 million people registered and have been offered an appointment at least twice through the pre-registration system. CDC may authorize vaccines for children ages 12-15 and pre-registration will be available for parents who may want to bring kids to a mass vax site. More details to come when the CDC determines the next steps on this.

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



Community Based Vaccine Access and Administration Services: DPH received a strong response to the recent Requests for Responses (RFR) #214923 Community-based Vaccine Access and Administration Services. DPH has funded 25 organizations to deliver services that assist individuals to access vaccination, and to provide vaccination services in locations and at times that aim to optimize access in heavily impacted municipalities and communities. Hoping to rely on many of you to help identify where these gaps in vaccinations are. RFR still on COMMBUYS, and we can open it up again if we are looking for additional applications so keep an eye out.

PrepMod Arrangements: Since users (~3k users) no longer need access to the PrepMod system, we ask that you de-activate them as soon as possible because we are being charged a fee (tax payer money) for users in the system. If you are no longer holding clinics, we ask that you de-activate all but 2-3 users who may need access to historical data. Please remember that all PrepMod users must have completed a User Agreement on file at the LBOH. These are to be managed and maintained by the local admins for all of their users and may be requested by DPH. Please recognize that if you are archiving clinics with patients vaccinated, in order for their data to transfer to MIIS you must select save and submit prior to archiving. If needed, bringing people back onto PrepMod is very easy.

Q: PrepMod still be available for flu clinics?

A: Not clear if this will be available for flu clinics.

Other updates:

-Pool guidance document to be posted before May 10th to address questions from today's webinar.

-MDPH COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing 101 training on Tuesday, May 11th from 11 am – 12:30 pm. Registration link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6881348912762049805> Audience includes any new LBOH agents and higher-education staff or those existing public health investigators that may benefit from a refresher. It will lightly discuss the use of the MAVEN surveillance system, but will also be appropriate for staff not yet on MAVEN or who will be minimally utilizing MAVEN as part of their case investigation processes.

Glynnis LaRosa live vaccine live Q&A May 24th from 1pm-2pm.

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

-bonnie dufresne - 3:01 PM

Q: Does the latest Face Covering Order change the EEA semi public/public swimming pool guidance about wearing a mask at the pool but not in the pool?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:05 PM

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



A: It is not advised to wear face coverings in the pool in order to minimize the possible risk of drowning from masks. -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:05 PM

A: *Wet masks-

-Andrew Fraser - 3:02 PM

Q: Should they follow the Indoor event gathering regs or sector specific regs for house of worship?-

-Mary Dozois - 3:06 PM

A: the ordination is a religious ceremony. Use the Place of Worship standard. Occupancy 50% as of 5/4/21-

-Noelle Freeman - 3:03 PM

Q: What is required for people traveling from India at this time? -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:07 PM

A: All international travelers need to follow US/CDC travel requirements. -

-Nick Corcoran - 3:05 PM

Q: Do fully vaccinated office employees in a private office need to wear masks if they can social distance? -

-Mary Dozois - 3:08 PM

A: The Office Standard was updated 3/22/21 and treats vaccinated and unvaccinated persons the same. Face covering required in all common areas and in meeting rooms, even when 6ft distance can be maintained. Face covering required except when in your own individual workspace and alone-

-5082215964 Hedden - 3:05 PM

Q: Can a Bed and Breakfast that has a residential kitchen make muffins, individually wrap them and leave them on a tray for guests to help themselves? -

-Mary Dozois - 3:09 PM

A: Yes.-

-Noelle Freeman - 3:02 PM

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



Q: With the latest guidance from DESE, schools are to notify people who are in 3-6 ft contact with a positive individual that they are close contacts but are not required to quarantine, then recommend that they test at day 5. So what happens if one of those people develops symptoms within 14 days of contact but tests negative? Do they have to complete 14 days of quarantine (from DO last contact) because they are symptomatic? Or do they come back to school when symptoms resolve because they tested negative?-

-Anne Gilligan - 3:09 PM

A: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/protocols.docx>

-Anne Gilligan - 3:10 PM

A: The protocols in the link should be followed.-

-Richard Rossi - 3:08 PM

Q: Speaking of pools, have the EEA updates been issued yet? I have questions regarding how many people can be in the pool area for "Meets". Is it a square foot figure, a max occupancy figure?? Help please.-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:10 PM

A: The pool guidance was last updated on March 22, EEA is not on today's webinar so we may not be able to answer your question today. We will contact them with your question.-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:37 PM

A: Gerben reports that in current guidance masks are still required in the pool area. New guidance will be issued prior to May 10 and that may be adjusted. -

-Andrew Fraser - 3:01 PM

Q: We have an Ordination ceremony at a local church later this month.-

-Mary Dozois - 3:10 PM

A: Place of Worship standard. Occupancy 50% as of 5/4/21-

-Terence Hayes - 3:11 PM

Q: Where can I access the latest guidance from DESE on proms?-

-Anne Gilligan - 3:13 PM

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

-Brandon Fitts - 3:14 PM

Q: Mike, if you get an answer on pool guidance would you mind including me on that response from the EEA?-

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



-Mike Coughlin - 3:15 PM

A: sure-

-Andrew Fraser - 3:12 PM

Q: For a meal in church hall after May 29 use indoor event standard? -

-Mary Dozois - 3:16 PM

A: A luncheon or dinner in a church hall - use the Indoor/Outdoor Event standard.

Coffee hours after services are still prohibited in the 3/1/21 standard, this will possibly be revised in the 5/10/21 update-

-erin hull - 3:16 PM

Q: Will this document be shared with us? -

-Mike Coughlin - 3:18 PM

A: yes-

-Katie Tenaglia-O'Neill - 3:13 PM

Q: If outdoor spas/hot tubs are treated as a pool, are they allowed to be open? -

-Mary Dozois - 3:19 PM

A: An outdoor spa/hot tub is NOT a swimming pool. Order 66 does not allow hot tubs/saunas to open until Phase 4-Step2. The expected date to open hot tubs in August 1 -

-Wes Chin - 3:20 PM

Q: What is the capacity limit for guests on a charter boat? -

-Mary Dozois - 3:23 PM

A: the capacity limit on a charter boat is currently 50 persons max (as of 3/22/21). It is possible that EEA will revise this by May 29. [mass.gov/doc/workplace-safety-and-reopening-standards-fo-hire-charter-vessels-phase-iv-step-1-effective-32221/download-](https://www.mass.gov/doc/workplace-safety-and-reopening-standards-fo-hire-charter-vessels-phase-iv-step-1-effective-32221/download-)

-jeff vaughan - 3:23 PM

Q: we have had 2 instances where we needed to receive information from a school transportation business (school bus, van) for contact tracing needs and the info coming back from the company is awfully incomplete (seating chart / student names in vehicle. Does DESE follow up with these companies? -

-Anne Gilligan - 3:27 PM

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



A: This would generally be addressed at the local level, however please email Reopeningk12@mass.gov if you need some assistance or support.-

-Katie Tenaglia-O'Neill - 3:22 PM

Q: If it is not heated, can it be used as a pool though?-

-Mary Dozois - 3:28 PM

A: The restriction is on hot tub, sauna and steam room. So if the body of water is used as a pool I would consider using it - occupancy limit would apply. This facility should get your BOH approval-

-michael theroux - 3:34 PM

Q: has the retail guidance been updated with regards to capacity limits?-

-Mary Dozois - 3:37 PM

A: Not yet. Most recent standard is 3/22/21. Possible that we see an update for May 10 or May 29-

-Karen Walega - 3:19 PM

Q: Hi Mike,

I too would like yo be included on the swimming pool update from EEA. Thanks!-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:39 PM

A: Gerben from EEA reports that an updated pool guidance document will be issued before May 10.-

-Doug Telling - 3:43 PM

Q: Is self-service at food trucks (napkins, forks, mustard, etc) and other outdoor dining services still prohibited?-

-Mary Dozois - 3:46 PM

A: The 3/18/21 restaurant standard prohibits bulk self serve condiments. napkins can be self serve. -

-Marykate Franks - 3:45 PM

Q: Is there anything DLS can speak to about the upcoming revised workplace Standards? -

-Mary Dozois - 3:47 PM

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/4/2021



A: The "DLS" standards are still in development at Command Center.

We actually don't write them so I don't know what the changes will be. We're hoping to see them posted on website Friday-

-Sandra Martin - 3:46 PM

Q: *Can Towns require employees to wear masks if they are not vaccinated? -

-Mary Dozois - 3:49 PM

A: The requirement on whether a mask is required is based on the MA COVID sector standards. When a mask is required by COVID protocols, then BOTH vaccinated and unvaccinated persons are required to wear a mask. -

-Alicia Bryant - 3:48 PM

Q: Will there be DESE guidance about wearing masks outdoors? For example, if teachers hold classes outdoors, can students be unmasked if they are seated at least 6 feet apart? -

-Anne Gilligan - 3:51 PM

A: There are no changes to mask wearing guidance. Schools are encouraged to adhere to all the mitigations strategies through the end of this school year. -

-Marykate Franks - 3:46 PM

Q: If a landscaping company working outdoors is able to maintain at least 6' between all employees, can they remove their masks? Or, because they are expected to follow the minimum, mandatory workplace standards, all employees are expected to wear face coverings?

-

-Mary Dozois - 3:52 PM

A: Use Not-Otherwise-Addressed for landscaping. I would not take enforcement action against an outdoor landscaper who is able to keep 6 ft distance. -