

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## MDPH/LBOH Webinar 5/7/2021

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### Announcements:

#### ***Happy Nurses Week!!***

***Mosquito Spraying Opt-Out Extension:*** Dr. Brown announced that the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is extending the mosquito spraying opt-out application deadline to the end of the day on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The opt-out contact information is [EEAopt-out@mass.gov](mailto:EEAopt-out@mass.gov) and links will be shared after the webinar.

***Reopening Changes:*** Updates provided by Michael Flanagan; changes will be effective May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

- Subject to Public Health Data, some Phase IV, Step 2 businesses and activities will be allowed.
- Amusement parks, theme parks, and outdoor water parks may re-open at 50% capacity and must submit COVID-19 safety plans to DPH.
- Road races and other organized athletic events will be allowed, and COVID-19 safety plans must be submitted as follows:
  - Submitted to DPH if the event is across several municipalities (e.g. Boston Marathon)
  - Submitted to local health department(s) if the event covers 1-2 municipalities
- Indoor/outdoor stadiums and arenas will move from 12% to 25% capacity (large venue standards).
- Singing indoors will follow the theater and performance venue standards (allowed in restaurants subject to distances, and other separations in the performance standards).
- Parades, Festivals, and Agricultural Festivals:
  - The 50% capacity restriction is removed.
  - All parades, festivals, and agricultural festivals are required to submit safety plans to the Local Board of Health.
  - Safety plans must include measures for maintaining social distance, as well as staffing and operations plans, hygiene protocols, and cleaning protocols.
  - Parades, festivals, and agricultural festivals will be permitted as of May 29<sup>th</sup>, pending public health data.
- Retail: The senior hours requirement is removed. Grocery stores and retail stores with a pharmacy department should consider dedicated hours of operation for adults 60+ but will no longer be required to offer these hours.

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**Homebound Vaccination Program:** Updates provided by Anna Dunbar-Hester.

- As of May 4<sup>th</sup>, a total of 1,184 people have been vaccinated by the state program. Of those, 934 were homebound individuals, 222 were family members, and 27 were vaccinated to prevent wastage.
- Just over 5,200 people have been identified as eligible for the state program, with 40-50 newly eligible individuals calling per day—though call volume has been decreasing substantially.
- Everyone in the queue will be scheduled by end of day today and have appointments by May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- No breakdown of vaccinations by community yet, but the vendor is working on this.
- The state program is still using the J&J vaccine, but for women under 50 who are concerned about it, there is an option to receive Moderna instead.
- Approximately 5,600 doses of vaccine have been allocated to the LBOH Option 1 communities, including approx. 1,700 Moderna doses provided as substitutes for J&J during the pause. DPH is committed to providing second doses of Moderna to those communities that switched to Moderna.
- Several communities have completed their homebound program (congratulations!) and the number of new requests for vaccine have been dwindling significantly. Requests for vaccine allocations from communities for their homebound programs will be accepted for two more weeks: request by 5pm on May 10<sup>th</sup> for delivery approx. May 17<sup>th</sup>, or request by 5pm on May 17<sup>th</sup> for delivery by approx. May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Any remaining Option 1 communities will be switched to Option 2 effective June 1 (i.e. the central intake line will not refer out to LBOHs starting on that date). Communities can switch from Option 1 to Option 2 earlier by contacting Anna ([anna.dunbar-hester@mass.gov](mailto:anna.dunbar-hester@mass.gov)).
- A close out survey for Option 1 communities will be sent out at the beginning of June asking for a report by town of the number of homebound vaccinations performed.
- Homebound Youth ages 12-17: Expecting Pfizer to get EUA next week for ages 12+. DPH is planning on providing vaccinations to homebound youth using Pfizer's two-dose formulary. More information coming soon.

**Next Webinar:** Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and 3pm

Starting next week, the Friday webinar will be discontinued. Webinars will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 3pm.

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Q&A Session for Friday, May 7, 2021 - Interagency COVID-19 Local Boards of Health Webinar

Session Number: 1856035079

Date: 2021-5-7

Starting time: 09:00

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-Deborah Youngblood - 09:15

Q: when it says festivals will be permitted as of 5/29 does that mean that we can't approve requests until that date waiting for data or that we can approve them now and they are to be held after 5/29\-

-Michael - 09:17

A: You can approve them now, as long as they are held after 5/29. If public health data changes they may have to be postponed or cancelled. -

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-Jill Conselino - 09:14

Q: question about fitting rooms? Are they allowed to be used at this point? I've been in a few stores of the past week and the fitting rooms are still closed-

-Michael - 09:18

A: Fitting rooms have been allowed to be open for several weeks. However, stores may elect to not open them. -

-Adam Kinney - 09:18

A: Current Standards state: Fitting rooms may be open, but any clothing tried on by a customer must either be quarantined for 24 hours or thoroughly steam cleaned prior to returning to the floor-

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-Jeanne Galloway - 09:17

Q: is the updated sector specific guidance released yet?-

-Michael - 09:18

A: Not at this time. -

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-Jill Conselino - 09:23

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Q: what is the date that the new EEA guidelines will take effect again related to this new information?-

-Jana Ferguson - 09:25

A: May 10-

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-16178984886 Kinsella - 09:23

Q: Can fitness clubs exercise outside without a mask if they remain 6 ft apart? Thank you-

-Jana Ferguson - 09:27

A: This will be addressed in the Fitness Standards, if/when updated. -

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-Kalene Gendron - 09:26

Q: Are the parades held to the 250 outdoor gathering limits? Thank you.-

-Michael - 09:28

A: No, there is no capacity limit on parades. -

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-Jamie Terry - 09:22

Q: Can you speak to mask requirements relaxing for spectators at sporting events if properly spaced?-

-Jana Ferguson - 09:29

A: People outdoors must be masked if not able to be socially distant from others outside of their household.-

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-James Philbrook - 09:25

Q: Can we now allow Spartan races?-

-Michael - 09:29

A: Yes, the approval is for road races and other amateur athletic events. -

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-Brandon Fitts - 09:20

Q: Still 50% capacity at pools?-

-Jana Ferguson - 09:30

A: Yes-

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-Katie Tenaglia-O'Neill - 09:30

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Q: Will the guidance include a specific check-list for the safety plan for fairs and festivals? We are already very overwhelmed with the amount of safety plans we are receiving, on top of our usual spring pre-openings, and it would be very helpful to be able to provide a check list for the applicants.-

-Michael - 09:33

A: We have received this comment/question from several health directors and will be working to address it. -

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-shelly newhouse - 09:33

Q: Can you send the link out to us for the state homebound vaccine program again. -

-Mike Coughlin - 09:34

A: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-homebound-vaccination-program#:~:text=If%20you%20are%20eligible%20for,in%2Dhome%20vaccination%20is%20appropriate.->

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-4137178922 Smith - 09:34

Q: Regarding your "people outdoors must be made if not able to be socially distant from others outside of their household" It will be really helpful to get the updated EEA guidance ASAP because we are getting a LOT of questions about this and the EEA guidance for youth sports still requires masking, which is different than this answer. Do you have any idea when this guidance will be made available?-

-Mike Coughlin - 09:35

A: Next week, goes into effect May 10-

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-Marykate Franks - 09:27

Q: For State employees, is the policy still 1 person per vehicle? Is that a recommendation for businesses? -

-Michael - 09:37

A: I am not aware of a HRD requirement. You would need to check with them. It is a recommendation for all businesses. -

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-Kristin Black - 09:13

Q: You require event organizers to submit safety plans to local boards of health for certain events. Did you provide guidance to LBOH for reviewing these applicaitons?-

-Michael - 09:37

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A: We have received this comment/question from several health directors and will be working to address it. -

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-Thomas Carbone - 09:13

Q: Can the state supply a template for these safety plans so that they are consistent across communities? It also helps us make sure that key issues are addressed.-

-Michael - 09:37

A: We have received this comment/question from several health directors and will be working to address it. -

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-Wes Chin - 09:36

Q: Will the relaxation of required mask use for players in some youth sports like baseball, will it also apply to coaches? -

-Mike Coughlin - 09:38

A: the new standard will be released next week, can't answer today.-

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-Karen Walega - 09:22

Q: Are children's outdoor reading programs at Library's required to wear face coverings?-

-Jana Ferguson - 09:42

A: If they can be socially distant, then no. -

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-James Philbrook - 09:32

Q: Can we ask the CTC to stop taking cases without local approval, thanks-

-Jana Ferguson - 09:44

A: The only way the CTC can take a case/contact is if they receive an referral from the LBOH. They don't see them otherwise. -

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-Kelli Calo - 09:46

Q: Businesses are reaching out to us about requiring staff to get vaccinated. What should our advice be to them? Contact their attorney?-

-Jana Ferguson - 09:47

A: Yes-

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-Jim Abare - 09:58

Q: Has there been any consideration of giving CEU's for attending the weekly webinars? -

-Mike Coughlin - 09:59

A: no-