

TOWN OF LUNENBURG MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER



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Town Manager

COVID-19 Update
August 18, 2020

UPDATES FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Here are a number of updates specific to Lunenburg that will also be posted on the town website, town Facebook page, the “townwide” listserv, sent to the Lunenburg Ledger and to Public Access:

COVID-19 in Lunenburg and Board of Health Notices:

The Board of Health issued their weekly update and as of August 14th there are 75 confirmed positive cases in Lunenburg and one death.

The COVID-19 Information Center page can be found [here](#).

Town Facilities:

Town Facilities, excluding the Library and Eagle House, are currently open to the public from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and by appointment outside of those hours. As a reminder, those entering are required to wear a face mask, use the hand sanitizer in the entry way of the building, and exit through the rear of the building.

Schools:

At the August 5th School Committee meeting the School Superintendent recommended and the School Committee voted to proceed with a hybrid model to begin the school year. The first day of school for students in Grades 1-12 will be Wednesday, September 16th.

UPDATES RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNEMENT:

The Baker-Polito Administration continues to take steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. A comprehensive list of emergency orders and guidance is available at mass.gov/covid19 (click [here](#)).

COVID-19 in Massachusetts (as of 8/13/20):

As of August 13th there are 113,517 COVID-19 cases and 8,568 deaths and 1,381,178 patients have been tested to date by the MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

This information is now posted on the Department of Public Health COVID-19 website, with a breakdown of coronavirus cases by city and town. The page can be accessed by going to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-cases-by-city/town->. The Department of Public Health has created a dashboard as well with comprehensive, detailed COVID-19 data, including trend data, case rates, testing, and breakdowns by age, sex, race, ethnicity and geography. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-dashboard->

Current Status: Step One of Phase III:

Due to the recent increase in positive cases, step two of phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan has been postponed indefinitely.

Updated Gatherings Order:

Governor Baker signed an updated gatherings order, which took effect Tuesday, August 11, which:

- Reduces the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)
- Applies these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property
- Requires face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.

Updated Restaurant Guidelines:

Restaurant rules have been updated to state that alcoholic beverages may only be served for on-site consumption if accompanied by orders for food prepared on-site. The administration will be taking measures to ensure that bars masquerading as restaurants will be closed.

Public safety officials, including state and local law enforcement, have the jurisdiction to enforce these orders and event hosts in violation of these orders will be subject to fines or cease and desist orders.

Travel Order:

Effective August 1, 2020, all visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow new travel orders. All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, who do not meet an exemption, are required to:

- Complete the **Massachusetts Travel Form** prior to arrival, unless you are visiting from a lower-risk state designated by the **Department of Public Health**.
- Quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts.

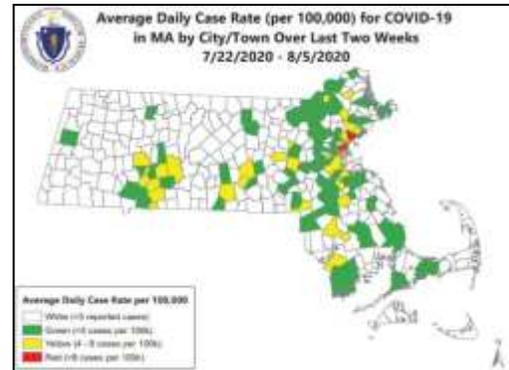
If your COVID-19 test result has not been received prior to arrival, visitors, and residents must quarantine until they receive a negative test result. Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day.

More information can be found below, including the list of lower-risk states, exemptions, business guidance and other details. Prior to the effective date, the [existing travel policy can be found here](#).

Baker-Polito Administration Releases Enhanced Community Level Data on Spread of COVID-19

On Tuesday, August 11th, the Baker-Polito Administration released additional data on community level spread of COVID-19 in order to target additional resources and implement community specific strategies to stop the spread of the virus.

While Massachusetts has seen an overall decrease in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations since May, there has been a slight uptick in certain communities recently. The Administration released data on the average daily cases per 100,000 residents, average percent positivity, and total case counts, for all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns over the last two weeks.



Based on the average daily cases per 100,000 residents, each city or town has been designated as a higher risk, moderate risk, or lower risk community. Going forward, this information will be updated and included in the Department of Public Health's weekly public health dashboard, which is published each Wednesday. Any city or town designated higher risk is considered to have a high level of COVID infection, and will receive additional support from the Commonwealth to address the spread of the virus.

Stop the Spread Initiative:

As part of the Stop the Spread Initiative launched by the Baker-Polito Administration, there are 17 free testing sites in higher risk communities. All residents in these 17 communities, including asymptomatic residents, are urged to get tested and these free testing sites are also open to all Massachusetts residents.

For a list of the free testing sites visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>.

Helpful Links:

- [Mass.gov/findfoodhelp](https://www.mass.gov/findfoodhelp)
- [Stop the Spread](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](https://www.mass.gov/covid19)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](https://www.frontlineMA.org)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)

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COVID-19 Public Resources Map:

MEMA, together with MA VOAD and other partners, has developed a [COVID-19 Public Resources Map](#) showing the location of resources available to the public, such as food banks, houses of worship, and Project Bread site locations. Please note that this map is not inclusive of all resources and is only as accurate as the information that has been provided to MEMA.

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results. Call 2-1-1 with questions. Text the keyword **COVIDMA to 888-777** to receive notifications to your phone. To receive these notifications in Spanish, text **COVIDMAESP to 888- 777**
- Take care of your emotional health:
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the “CALL2TALK” option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.