

TOWN OF LUNENBURG MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER



Heather R. Lemieux
Town Manager

COVID-19 Update
August 4, 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 July 31st, there are 73 confirmed positive cases in Lunenburg and one death.

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

Town Beach:

The Town Beach opened on Monday, July 13th. Initially the system required registration 24 hours in advance but this has been changed to allow residents to register online the same day they wish to come to the beach or earlier through www.lunenburgma.myrec.com.

Town Facilities:

Town facilities are currently open to the public by appointment only and residents can contact the department they wish to set up an appointment with by contacting them through contact information on the town website. The intent after a Reopening Task Force Meeting was to open town facilities during limited hours this week but this will be delayed until next week in order for all distance markers and additional isolation barriers to be installed at the relevant buildings. The Facilities Director has installed additional wall mounted sanitizer units at all the entrances of town buildings and has ordered additional PPE for town facilities.

Starting Monday, August 10th we will open Town Facilities, excluding the Library and Eagle House, to the public during limited hours. Starting Monday and until further notice the public hours will be 10 a.m. until 2

*17 Main Street, P.O. Box 135, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
P: (978) 582-4130~E: hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com*

p.m. We will continue serving the public by appointments outside those hours. Any persons entering a town building will be required to wear a facemask and maintain their social distance of six feet. Hand sanitizer units have been installed at each entrance of each building and the public will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entry. We are required to keep a log of every employee and visitor to each department and have thus far been utilizing Google Sheets to maintain this log. Departments will be asked to continue to maintain this log and therefore any public entering the building should expect to be asked their name and relevant contact information. Anyone that cannot wear a facemask due to a medical condition will need to contact the relevant department and an accommodation will be made to provide the service needed. Those entering the Town Hall and Ritter Buildings will be asked to enter in the front door and exit through the side entrance to make it a one way entry/exit. I will be monitoring how this goes with the departments and will make adjustments as needed.

Use of Town Fields:

Organized groups that wish to use town fields need to go through the Recreation Director Kayla Wright at kwright@lunenburgonline.com for scheduling field time.

Public Meetings:

At this time public meetings will continue to be held virtually. There are a number of considerations to be resolved before public meetings can be held at town buildings, including:

- Our IT Department and Public Access has ordered the necessary equipment and is waiting on a few items that are expected to be delivered by the end of this week. The installation of the equipment is expected to begin next week. Until this is installed and tested out we cannot hold an in-person meeting that also has participants on Zoom.
- The current gathering order for our town facilities is 8 people per 1,000 feet of enclosed space and given that the Town Hall meeting room where we are planning hybrid meetings is around 1,400 feet, this would equate to a maximum of 11 people social distancing.
- Our guidance is different than the guidance issued by DESE for school re-openings and we do not have the ability as schools do to have control over the number of people in the building unless we had a designated person keeping track of capacity.
- We are working with our cleaning company to see if we could have an increased cleaning schedule for them to come in on days after meetings but this has not been finalized.

As the situation progresses, I will update the Board and the public on any changes in public meetings.

Schools:

Schools were required to submit three versions of re-opening to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by July 31st. This included a fully remote learning plan, a hybrid model, and a full in person learning plan. The School Superintendent will be presenting the re-opening plan for the schools at the School Committee meeting tomorrow evening, August 5th.

Re-useable Bags at Hannaford:

Currently Hannaford is allowing customers to bring in their own reusable bags but associates will not bag items in reusable bags brought in from outside the store. If a customer buys a new reusable bag at checkout, associates can bag items in those new bags.

The store is currently trying to deplete their supply of plastic bags and build up their inventory of paper bags. At this time Hannaford is not charging a fee for the use of paper bags. Effective August 17, 2020 Hannaford will no longer provide single use plastic shopping bags and a fee for the use of paper bags will be reinstated.

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 7/30/20):

As of July 30th there are 109,400 COVID-19 cases and 8,375 deaths and 1,161,454 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->

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**.

Current Status: Step One of Phase III:

On July 2, 2020 the Baker-Polito Administration announced that Phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan would begin Monday, July 6th. Currently the following businesses are able to be open in Step One of Phase III, subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations:

- Movie theaters and outdoor performance venues;
- Museums, cultural and historical sites;
- Fitness centers and health clubs;
- Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact;
- Professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators

Full guidance and list of businesses eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III can be found

*17 Main Street, P.O. Box 135, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
P: (978) 582-4130~E: hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com*

at www.mass.gov/reopening. Businesses and sectors set to begin opening in Phase III are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards.

Current Gatherings Order:

Under the updated gatherings order issued by the Governor on July 2nd, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible. This revised order does not supersede previously issued sector guidance, and is effective beginning Monday, July 6.

Helpful Links:

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

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,

*17 Main Street, P.O. Box 135, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
P: (978) 582-4130~E: hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com*

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.

*17 Main Street, P.O. Box 135, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
P: (978) 582-4130~E: hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com*