

Situational Report

Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

August 4, 2020

The **Cape Cod Reopening Task Force** is a region-wide task force assembled in spring 2020 to develop strategies for reopening Cape Cod once it is safe to do so. The Cape Cod Reopening Task Force is led by the Cape & Islands Legislative Delegation, the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, and Barnstable County, with participation from healthcare providers, municipal officials, first responders, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

Morbidity/Mortality Data in Massachusetts and Barnstable County

- See COVID-19 case number and figures for **Barnstable County** at https://bit.ly/BC_COVID-19_data
- COVID-19 Cases in MA
 - 119,203 total confirmed and probable cases, 8,657 COVID-19 attributed deaths (*dashboard attached*)
- There are a little over 350 Massachusetts residents hospitalized for COVID-19. The hospitalization rate has fallen to below 1% and continues to trend downward.
- As on Monday, July 6th, the Department of Public Health is reporting probable and confirmed cases separately. They are summed in this report, but the separated numbers are available in the attached dashboard.

Latest Guidance from State Government

- Reopening Phase 3, Step I, which will include gyms, museums, movie theaters, outdoor performance venues, indoor recreation sites with low potential for contact, and certain professional sporting events (without spectators).
 - A full list of facilities and opening times is available [here](#).
- Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space.
- New travel advisory affecting all travelers to Massachusetts went into effect on August 1, 2020. All travelers, including residents returning home, must fill out a Massachusetts Traveler Form at mass.gov/matraveler agreeing to present a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than three days prior to arriving or quarantining for 14 days upon arriving.
 - Full details are available at mass.gov/matraveler.

Actions Taken to Date

The Cape Cod Reopening Task Force convened in late April and meets once a week. The Task Force has completed the following since our last situational report:

- Held press availability to discuss response to a coronavirus cluster in Chatham that was precipitated by a private event where attendees were not wearing masks.
- Convened district superintendents to discuss district reopening plans and offer county health data to assist with making decisions related to reopening.
- Conducted outreach efforts to national and state testing facilities to find possible options to add capacity to regional testing capabilities.
- Created online content aimed at younger audiences to promote mask use in circumstances where social distancing is not possible

Next Action Steps for the Task Force

- Advocate for early release of guidance prior to the start of reopening Phase 3, Step II, which will include activities with greater risk of indoor contact, including indoor performance venues, roller skating arenas, laser tagging, and bowling alleys.
 - As of late, the Governor has intimated that the phased reopening may slow or reverse due to rising case counts.
- Begin sourcing feedback from the public on school reopenings and take steps to ensure representation from educators on the task force.
- Monitor and respond to the [Falmouth COVID-19 cluster](#) in concert with municipal partners. The task force shall assist with contact tracing, providing testing capacity, and ensuring that safety protocols are adhered to.

Submit Comments

The public is invited to submit comments to the Task Force. Comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration as the Task Force develops a reopening plan. Comments can be submitted online at <https://www.reopeningcapecod.org/submit-a-comment-2>. There are four entities accepting comment;

- Region-specific concerns should be submitted to the Reopening Task Force
- Statewide concerns should be submitted to the Governor's office
- Concerns about mask orders and public health guidance should be submitted to Local Boards of Health OR the Office of the Governor
- Concerns about workplace safety or preparations should be submitted to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

Attachments

- [MA Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Tuesday, August 4, 2020](#)