

Situational Report

Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

June 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
 - 102,557 total confirmed cases, 7,235 COVID-19 attributed deaths (*dashboard attached*)
- There are under 2,000 Massachusetts residents hospitalized for COVID-19, and the hospitalization rate has fallen to below 2% and continues to trend downward.
- Governor Baker announced the June 8 start date for Phase 2 on June 6. The Administration has updated [compliance guidelines for Phase 2](#).

Latest Guidance from State Government

- Reopening is **not mandatory**. Some businesses (especially seasonal businesses) have decided to remain closed for the summer season or months to come. There are certain businesses that are deemed essential (e.g. grocery stores, pharmacies, delivery services and couriers) that have been directed by the Governor to remain open.
 - Businesses like restaurants and retail stores that have been closed in recent months may continue to remain closed or close permanently for a variety of reasons.
- Phase 2 is to occur in two distinct, separate steps.
 - **Step one** begins on June 8 and permits for a variety of industries to reopen, albeit with strict capacity, contact, and indoor activity restrictions.
 - Step one includes **lodging accommodations**, which are defined as “hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfast accommodations, and all other short-term residential rentals including those arranged through on-line hosting platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO.” Guidance and recommended safety protocols are available [here](#)
 - Step one includes **child care and camp facilities**. Child serving facilities must complete an [approval process](#) to reopen. Since debuting the guidance for reopening, EEC has received hundreds of questions from providers. The questions and answers have been posted [here](#).

- Step one includes **restaurants for outdoor dining only**. They must meet [mandatory safety standards](#) developed by the state and abide by [sector-specific guidelines](#). Principal goal of the guidance and standards is to allow requisite social distancing and limiting transitory movement within facilities for the protection of staff and customers.
- A full list of the sector-specific guidelines for all industries included in the reopening is available [here](#). For more details on Phase 2 and whether your business can reopen, please see [here](#).
- **Step two** includes activities with close contact personal services (e.g. nail care, makeup salons, massage therapy, and hair removal.) and has a start date to be determined by public health data.

Actions Taken to Date

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

- Hosted [podcast discussion](#) of the impacts of Phase 2 for local businesses
- Received and requested Sagamore and Bourne Bridge transit data for Memorial Day Weekend. Full data have been published on the Cape Cod Commission's [COVID-19 data dashboard](#). Results indicate a 31% decrease in crossings in May 2020 relative to May 2019.
- Hosted press availability with Mike Lauf (CEO, Cape Cod Healthcare) and Vaira Harik (Deputy Director, Barnstable County Department of Human Services) to discuss health care capacity and the resumption of traditional medical care and surgical services in the region before the public.
 - Lauf indicated that Cape Cod Hospital and Falmouth Hospital each have four-hour turnaround for in-house testing, with capacity to test 200 people a day at each facility.

Next Action Steps for the Task Force

- Update guidance to the seasonal community to reflect recommendations contingent with Phase 2 of the statewide reopening plan
- Work with Cape Cod Healthcare partners to publish guidance and FAQs on the availability of testing in Barnstable county for seasonal residents and primary care referrals outside of Cape Cod Healthcare.
- Advocate for the early release of guidance for indoor dining (to resume in Step 2 of Phase 2), so that they can easily prepare when the timing of Step 2 is available
- Update [reopeningcapecod.org](#), other websites, and social media channels to reflect new guidance for Phase 2 and disseminate safety protocols, guidance, and mandatory safety standards to intended recipients

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 report. Comments can be submitted online at <https://bit.ly/CCRTE>.

Attachments

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