

Situational Report

Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

June 16, 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
 - 105,690 total confirmed cases, 7,647 COVID-19 attributed deaths (*dashboard attached*)
- There are a little over 1,000 Massachusetts residents hospitalized for COVID-19. The hospitalization rate has fallen to below 1% and continues to trend downward.

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 situational report:

- Continued updating testing [FAQ document](#) to provide clarity on where residents and visitors can receive tests in the region
- Developed and distributed the Phase 2 version of Guidance for Seasonal Visitors to the Cape & Islands in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Portuguese](#).
- Submitted proposal to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for a mobile testing program to be available to workplaces, congregate care facilities, hotels etc in the event one or more individuals is found to be COVID positive at such a facility.
 - The testing response program is a joint project between the Hyannis Fire Department, the Cape Cod Reopening Task Force, and Barnstable County

Next Action Steps for the Task Force

- Prepare press availability with representatives from Cape Cod Health Care and Outer Cape Health Services to discuss progress in expanding testing for the summer on Cape Cod
- Advocate for the early release of guidance for indoor dining so that restaurant owners can easily prepare when the timing of a resumption of indoor dining is available
- Continue convening sub-working groups to hear and record concerns of industry partners and members of the workforce

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 – Tuesday, June 15, 2020](#)