

# Situational Report

## Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

May 26, 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](https://bit.ly/BC_COVID-19_data)
- COVID-19 Cases in MA
  - 93,271 total confirmed cases, 6,416 COVID-19 attributed deaths (*dashboard attached*)
- There are over 2,500 Massachusetts residents remain hospitalized for COVID-19, but the hospitalization rate has fallen to below 3%.
- Governor Baker announced the [first phase of reopening](#) on Monday, May 18. Select manufacturing and construction businesses will be allowed to operate, followed by select office spaces, personal services, and retail with restrictions on Monday, May 25.
- The Command Center has launched a virtual map allowing residents to easily locate testing sites in their area.

### Latest Guidance from State Government

- Reopening Phase 1 officially began on May 18. Reopening phases are set to last no less than three weeks, minimum, pending favorable health trends. [Select businesses](#) allowed to reopen.
- Sectors allowed to reopen must abide by [mandatory safety standards](#), publish a plan to implement and maintain these standards, and are subject to intervention by local boards of health if found to be non-compliant.
- Governor Baker is expected to issue guidance on child care in the coming weeks and stated that he has been working with HHS Secretary Marylou Sudders to address capacity issues. The state's emergency capacity currently has 6,500 slots.
- The Baker-Polito administration has submitted its long-term and immediate testing plans and goals to the federal government. The plans call for capacity to offer 45,000 tests per day by the end of July, and 75,000 per day by December.
- Unemployment claimants who are eligible for extended benefits under Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) are now able to claim through UI online

## Actions Taken to Date

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

- Coordinated health surveillance strategy between Barnstable County government and Cape Cod Healthcare
- Updated guidance for seasonal residents and visitors through the remainder of reopening Phase 1
- Communicated with the Governor's Reopening Advisory Board (RAB) on the need for clarity and guidance for hosting large gatherings and outdoor entertainment
- Developed universal beach signs to standardize guidance and enforcement across Cape Cod
- Held press availability for state and local press corps to communicate Memorial Day Weekend expectations to the public
- Convened short-term rental working group to develop best practices for cleaning and containing positive cases; final guidance contingent on Phase 2 of the Baker-Polito plan
- The Cape & Islands legislative delegation has advocated for a bill to ease the process of alcohol pouring licensures for the summer months, to expedite the process of converting to curbside service
- The Cape Cod Commission built a data dashboard to track the economic impact of COVID-related shutdowns and reopening policies
- Convened two meetings with regional town managers to discuss best practices for beach management
- Cindy Horgan (*Executive Director, Cape Cod Children's Place*) hosted a discussion with membership about heightened concerns for parents and childcare providers

## Next Action Steps for the Task Force

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- Flag concerns from retail, hospitality, and tourism to the Governor's re-opening advisory board in advance of Memorial Day weekend
- Continue to review any changes to state directives related to reopening
- Work with local boards of health to synchronize beach guidelines and enforcement practices across towns

## Submit Comments

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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/CCRTF>

## Attachments

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- [MA Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Monday, May 25, 2020](#)