

Situational Report

Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

May 28, 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
 - 94,220 total confirmed cases, 6,547 COVID-19 attributed deaths (*dashboard attached*)
- There are over 2,000 Massachusetts residents remain hospitalized for COVID-19, but the hospitalization rate has fallen to below 3% and continues to trend downward.
- Governor Baker announced the [first phase of reopening](#) on Monday, May 18. Select manufacturing, construction, personal services, and retail businesses are now allowed to operate, as are limited office spaces.
- 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

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:

- Continued discussing reopening protocols with the Baker-Polito administration for tourism-related industries
- Assessed Cape Cod Healthcare's capacity for ICU & medical surge beds and personal protective equipment for the summer season
- Communicated the need for clarity on what will be permitted in Phase 2 and Phase 2's start date with the Governor's Reopening Advisory Board (RAB)
- Convened meetings of four industry sub-groups (retail, accommodations, salons, and events)
- Requested data from DOT and other authorities to assess the travel patterns of Memorial Day weekend and develop data points for economic activity relative to previous years
- Published the Cape Cod Commission's [municipal toolkit](#) to provide a roadmap for town managers to make temporary amendments to bylaws if safety and reopening protocols require changes

Next Action Steps for the Task Force

- Develop education & outreach materials for business owners to help them enforce preferred conduct from customers
- Publish clarity for travelers on what quarantining specifically means and what conduct is permitted during a quarantine period
- Connect small nonprofit organizations to resources necessary to purchase PPE and continue operating
- Publish testing availability and eligibility FAQ for employers

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 – Wednesday, May 27, 2020](#)