

# Situational Report

## Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

July 14, 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

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- 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
  - 112,130 total confirmed and probable cases, 8,340 COVID-19 attributed deaths (*dashboard attached*)
- There are a little over 600 Massachusetts residents hospitalized for COVID-19. The hospitalization rate has fallen to below 1% and continues to trend downward.
- As of Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 from the Department of Public Health.

### Latest Guidance from State Government

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- 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.
- Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.
- The Administration has released a free, targeted COVID-19 testing program for communities where cases are about the statewide average. Fall River and New Bedford are the closest locations to Barnstable County.

## 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 since our last situational report:

- Developed and distributed uniform [signage](#) for businesses and municipalities to help them meet state minimum safety standards for distancing, sanitization, face coverings, and other workplace precautions
- Held press availability to discuss emerging racial disparities in Barnstable County COVID-19 data, which disproportionately impact Black and Latinx people on Cape Cod
- Updated guidance for seasonal visitors to reflect current quarantine advisory from the Baker-Polito administration
- Held a testing FAQ session for businesses with Dr. Kevin Mulroy of Cape Cod Health Care

## Next Action Steps for the Task Force

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- 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,
- Develop additional posters for business distribution urging distancing and one-way traffic in crowded indoor venues.
- Host press availability on the municipal government response to the COVID-19 pandemic

## 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 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
- Concerns about workplace safety or preparations should be submitted to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

## Attachments

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- [MA Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Tuesday, July 14, 2020](#)