

# Situational Report

## Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

May 21, 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.

### Overall Goal

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To pursue a safe and structured approach to reopening commercial and social activities on Cape Cod.

- Uniform information for the public: promote a consistent Cape-wide approach to safe practices for the towns and businesses, year-round residents, seasonal residents, second homeowners, summer workers, and visitors
- Assistance to businesses: provide tools, guidance, best-practices and expertise to assist local businesses with what they will need and be required to do in order to reopen safely
- Assistance to municipalities: provide elected officials and local decision-makers with resources and support to create uniformity and strength in policy-decisions

### 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
  - 88,970 total confirmed cases, 6,066 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

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- 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.
- Emergency childcare centers are operating at 35% of their capacity. When operating at full capacity, they can provide childcare to 10,000 children statewide.
- Beach guidance calls for maintaining 6 ft. distancing while walking; 12 ft between towels
- Sector-specific guidance on hotels, lodging, and restaurants will be available in advance of phase 2. We expect further sanitation protocols and capacity limits, among other restrictions.
- 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:

- Received and reviewed 511 responses to business impact survey
- Arranged meeting with EEA Sec. Kathleen Theoharides to discuss Phase 1 beach guidance and provide town managers with an opportunity to ask enforcement questions
- Developed an easy-to-access website for up to date reopening information for Cape Codders, towns, businesses and public to access guidelines and resources
- Updated guidance for seasonal residents and visitors through the remainder of reopening Phase 1

## Next Action Steps for the Task Force

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- Draft signs and communication resources for local authorities to enforce uniform beach guidance
- 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/CCRTE>

## Attachments

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- [MA Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Thursday, May 21, 2020](#)