

Situational Report

Cape Cod Reopening Task Force

COVID-19 Updates

June 18, 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
 - 106,151 total confirmed cases, 7,734 COVID-19 attributed deaths (*dashboard attached*)
- There are a little under 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

- The Administration announced a round of tax relief measures that are targeted to restaurants and accommodations particularly affected by COVID-19.
 - All sales, meals, and room occupancy taxes that would have been due between March and August are now due in September. Any penalties and interest that would have been applied are waived.
 - Businesses that paid less than \$150,000 in regular sales plus meals taxes in the year ending February 29, 2020 will be eligible for relief for sales and meals taxes, and
 - Businesses that paid less than \$150,000 in room occupancy taxes in the year ending February 29, 2020 will be eligible for relief with respect to room occupancy taxes.
 - Those subject to meal and occupancy taxes that are not eligible due to the \$150,000 limit still qualify for waiving of late file fees and associated penalties

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:

- Hosted press availability with Mike Lauf, President and CEO of Cape Cod Healthcare; and Patricia Nadle, President of Outer Cape Health Services to discuss:

- Eventual relocation of Cape Cod Community College testing site to Cape Cod Healthcare (CCHC)'s Hyannis campus
- Opening of a new testing campus at Falmouth Hospital to serve the upper Cape region
- Free, temporary testing sites in Wellfleet, Provincetown, and Harwichport during this week (June 17 and 18).
- 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

Next Action Steps for the Task Force

- Work with partners like Cape Cod Healthcare, Outer Cape Health Services, Whole Health Pharmacy, CVS Pharmacy, Harbor Community Health Center et al. to publish guidance and FAQs on the availability of testing in Barnstable county for seasonal residents and primary care referrals outside of Cape Cod Healthcare.
- 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
- Update <http://reopeningcapecod.org/> to provide more outlets for the public to voice concerns to relevant agencies, such as local boards of health and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.
- Prepare press availability with childcare stakeholders represented on the Task Force to discuss the impacts to the industry and the reopening process.

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 – Thursday, June 18, 2020](#)