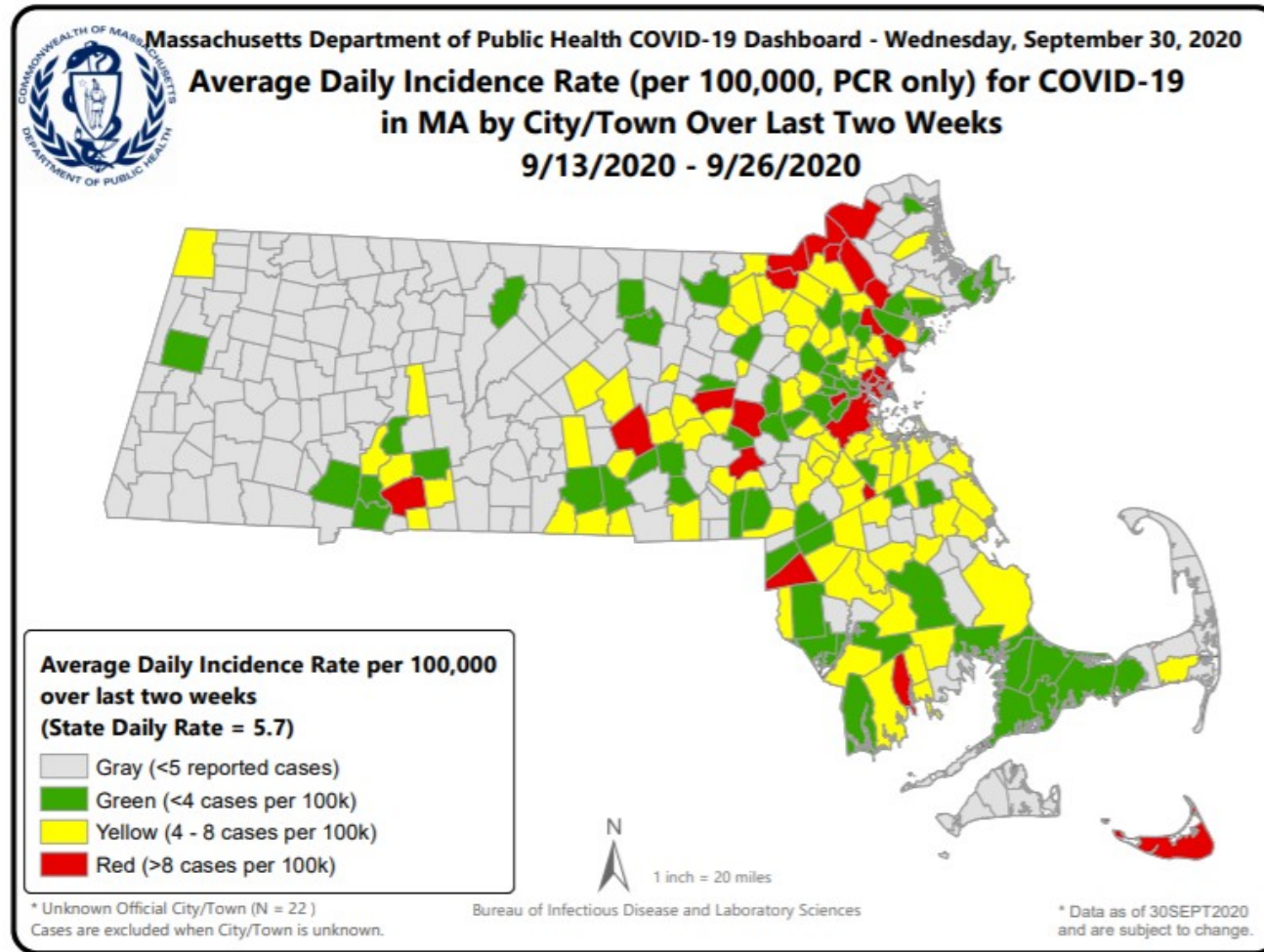




PHASE 3, STEP 2 EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 5TH FOR LOWER RISK COMMUNITIES

Determinations about which communities may move ahead to step 2 on October 5 will be made based on the data in the weekly DPH reports released September 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting# covid-19-weekly-public-health-report->





REOPENING: PHASE 3, STEP 1 & 2 - VIGILANT

REVISED GATHERINGS ORDER

The limit for **indoor** gatherings remains at **25 people** for both **step 1** and **step 2** communities. The order divides outdoor gatherings into two different types:

- **Outdoor** gatherings at **private** residences and in private backyards will have a limit of **50 people** for **both step 1 and step 2** communities.
- **Outdoor** gatherings at **event venues** and in **public settings** will have a limit of **50 people** in **step 1** communities, and a limit of **100 people** in **step 2** communities (Lower Risk Communities).

For any **outdoor** gathering expected to have **more than 50 attendees**, the operator of the event venue **must notify the LBOH at least one week in advance of the event**. For events held in public places like parks, the event organizer shall be responsible for providing notice.

The order reiterates the requirement for 6 feet of distancing at both indoor and outdoor gatherings, and that any gathering over 10 people requires the wearing of face coverings.



REOPENING: PHASE 3, STEP 1 & 2 - VIGILANT

SECTOR SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS UPDATED

Businesses and sectors are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards. As always, businesses should consult [sector-specific protocols](#) and the [When Can My Business Reopen?](#) pages at www.mass.gov/reopening.

RESTAURANTS

Outdoor dining extended until 60 days after the expiration of the state of emergency. Municipalities can opt for date limitations.

ALL: Remove 24 hr required closure for cleaning, align language with other guidance (i.e. direct to follow latest CDC guidance)

STEP 2: For performances at restaurants, allow wind/brass instruments but no singing indoors (aligns with indoor performance venues)



REOPENING: PHASE 3, STEP 1 & 2 - VIGILANT

INDOOR & OUTDOOR THEATERS, CONCERT HALLS, AND SIMILAR PERFORMANCE VENUES

ALL: Staff and performers don't count towards capacity limit

Movie theater increases to 50% capacity per theater and concessions open

STEP 2: Indoor performance venues open (50% capacity; max 250 people)

Outdoor performance venue capacity increases to 50% with a max of 250 people

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EVENTS

ALL: Staff and caterers don't count towards capacity limit

STEP 2: Allow wind/brass instruments but no singing at indoor events (aligns with indoor performance venues)

Advance capacity to **25 persons indoors** and **100 persons outdoors**



REOPENING: PHASE 3, STEP 2 - VIGILANT

RETAIL

ALL: Open food courts

STEP 2: Allow fitting rooms to open in all types of stores

ARCADES AND INDOOR & OUTDOOR RECREATION BUSINESSES

STEP 2: Increase capacity to 50%

Open step 2 activities; laser tag, roller rinks, trampolines, obstacle courses

GOLF

ALL: Allow more than 1 rider per cart and allow flag sticks

DRIVING/FLIGHT SCHOOLS, GYMS, LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND SECTORS NOT OTHERWISE ADDRESSED

ALL: Increase capacity to 50%



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- DOWNLOAD TOOL KIT https://www.findmylocalma.com/s/MyLocalToolkit_091720.zip
- SHOW YOUR LOCAL PRIDE, HANG FLYER AT YOUR BUSINESS
- SHARE CAMPAIGN ON SOCIAL MEDIA





Extension of Administrative Tax Relief for Local Businesses

- On September 15, the Baker-Polito Administration announced extended administrative tax relief measures for small local businesses that have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, especially in the restaurant and hospitality sectors.
- This includes the extension of the deferral of regular sales tax, meals tax, and room occupancy taxes for small businesses due from March 2020 through April 2021, so that they will instead be due in May 2021. Additionally, all penalties and interest that would otherwise apply will be 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.
- Business 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.
- For businesses with meals tax and room occupancy tax obligations that do not otherwise qualify for this relief, late-file and late-pay penalties will be waived during this period.
- The Department of Revenue will issue emergency regulations and a Technical Information Release to implement these administrative relief measures. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/important-covid-19-response-update-from-dor>



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Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD)

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