

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for February 26, 2021

As of the most recent weekly public health report, there have been 472 positive cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Southwick. The Southwick Board of Health would like to stress that this is not a complete profile of the status of COVID-19 in the Town of Southwick. This number reflects those individuals who have received positive test results and *not* those awaiting results, untested symptomatic individuals, and those who might currently be asymptomatic. Additional information on case numbers can be found at mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting.

! NEW INFORMATION – The Baker/Polito Administration announced, on February 25, 2021, the following changes to the reopening plan:

1. **Phase 3, Step 2: Effective March 1st, the Commonwealth will move forward into Phase 3, Step 2.** This will reopen:
 - Indoor performance venues such as concert halls, theaters, and other indoor performance spaces
 - Open at 50% capacity with 500 person max
 - Indoor recreational activities with greater potential for contact: laser tag, roller skating, trampolines, obstacle courses
 - Open at 50% capacity
2. **Updated Capacity Limits: Effective March 1st the following industries will increase to 50% capacity.**
Employees will be exempt from capacity restrictions in **all** of these industries:
 - Arcades & Other Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Businesses
 - Close Contact Personal Services
 - Driving and Flight Schools
 - Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
 - Golf Facilities (indoor)
 - Libraries
 - Operators of Lodging (common spaces)
 - Museums, Cultural & Historic Facilities, Guided Tours
 - Office Spaces
 - Places of Worship
 - Sectors not Otherwise Addressed
 - Theaters and Performance Venues
 - Relevant EEA Industries – Youth sports spectators etc.
 - *The following industries remain unaffected by capacity limits:*
 - Drive in movie theaters
 - Construction
 - Laboratories
 - Manufacturing
3. **Additional Guidance Changes:**
 - **Effective March 1st, Restaurants will no longer be subject to a % seated capacity limit and their capacity is limited only by the requirement of 6 feet between tables**
 - Musical performances allowed in restaurants (with appropriate distancing)
 - 90 minute time limit on tables *stays in place*

- Limit of no more than 6 per table *stays in place*
- Food courts *remain closed*
- **Effective March 1st, Fitting rooms may open in all retail businesses**
- 4. **Gatherings Limit: Effective March 22nd, subject to public health data, the gatherings limit will increase for event venues and public settings, but will stay the same in private settings:**
 - **Event Venues and Public Settings:**
 - 100 indoor
 - 150 outdoor
 - **Private Settings (such as private residences):**
 - 10 indoors
 - 25 outdoors
- 5. **Phase 4, Step 1: Effective March 22nd, subject to public health data, the Commonwealth will move into Phase 4, Step 1:**
 - Indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks will reopen with a **12%** capacity limit
 - A large venue is defined as a having a capacity of 5,000 or more
 - Venues with capacity under 5,000 are subject to the Indoor and Outdoor Performance Venue guidance
 - Large venues will be required to submit a safety plan to the Department of Public Health
 - Overnight Camps will be allowed to open for Summer 2021
 - Exhibition and Convention Halls may reopen, subject to gathering limits and event rules
 - Dance floors may open at weddings and events *only*
 - All other Phase 4 industries will not be able to open until a future reopening step. Those include:
 - Road races, street festivals, and parades, and fairs
 - Amusement parks, theme parks, outdoor water parks
 - Indoor water parks and indoor/outdoor ball pits
 - Saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs, and other facilities
 - Beer gardens/ breweries/ wineries/ distilleries
 - Bars, dance clubs, and nightclubs—venues offering entertainment, beverages, or dancing and not providing seated food service

Updated guidance can be found at www.mass.gov/reopening.

COVID-19 Vaccine information - Due to extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, it could take more than a month for all eligible individuals to secure an available appointment, unless federal supply significantly increases. Recently, Massachusetts has been receiving approximately 110,000 first doses per week from the federal government. Residents are encouraged to keep checking the State website, <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>, as appointments are added on a rolling basis. Additionally, seniors, ages 65 and up, can call **2-1-1** for assistance with locating and signing up for the vaccine.

! NEW INFORMATION – All visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow the [travel orders](#). All travelers are instructed to complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) prior to arrival and to self-quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours

prior to your arrival in Massachusetts, except travelers from Hawaii and Puerto Rico. All persons are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals who are COVID-19-recovered, meaning individuals who tested positive more than 10 days but less than 90 days ago and who do not have symptoms, do not need to obtain a negative PCR test prior to traveling to, or quarantine upon arrival to, Massachusetts.

The Town Hall north side lobby is open to the public for Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector, and Assessors services. All other offices are available by phone, on-line, and by appointment. Due to the nature of our operations during the pandemic, please call these other offices before visiting Town Hall. All efforts have been made to ensure that customers and staff are kept safe. The Town of Southwick asks all visitors entering the building to abide by all posted signage.

Due to the continued rise in cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, residents are urged to continue to follow all public health precautions for reducing the spread of COVID-19: stay home unless absolutely necessary; if you must go out in public, practicing social distancing and proper hygiene etiquette; wear face coverings when inside retail stores and when social distancing cannot be maintained; and if you are experiencing signs of illness - fever, cough, shortness of breath – call your primary care provider for advice.

The Southwick Board of Health and Select Board continue to post case numbers and updated information regarding COVID-19 every week at southwickma.org. For additional up-to-date information please visit mass.gov/2019coronavirus and cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov. For non-emergency information and assistance, please call 2-1-1 or visit mass211.org.