

Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for February 5, 2021

As of the most recent weekly public health report, there have been 430 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 Town of Southwick's Vaccine Taskforce is currently in the process of preparing for clinics to serve the 75 and older population. Once vaccine has been made available and a date has been set, another town wide message will go out informing eligible residents on how to sign up. Additionally, information will be posted on the Town's website, southwickma.org, and through Channel 15. In preparation for signing up for these clinics, it would be helpful for those interested to keep their insurance information handy and to talk to family members or people they trust to assist them with online registration. **Additionally, the Governor announced the formation of a vaccine hotline to assist seniors, aged 75 and up, with locating and signing up for the vaccine. The number to call is 2-1-1.** For more information on the vaccine, the vaccine distribution plan, and to find a vaccine location, please visit mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine.

! NEW INFORMATION - Earlier this week, Governor Baker announced that the recent temporary occupancy restrictions in sectors listed below are being lifted and being replaced with less strict limits. These changes are **effective Monday February 8th at 5:00 a.m.** The following is a summary of these new changes:

1. Lifting 25% Capacity Restriction

- a. All businesses in the list below, currently limited to 25% capacity, will return to 40% capacity, as previously allowed. (The sector-specific industry standards dated in December 2020 will apply.)
 - Arcades and Recreational Businesses
 - Driving and Flight Schools
 - Gyms/Health Clubs
 - Libraries
 - Museums
 - Retail
 - Offices
 - Places of Worship
 - Lodging (common areas)
 - Golf (indoor areas)
 - Movie theaters (no more than 50 people per theater)
- b. Restaurants will now be limited to 40% of their seated capacity and, as under the 25% capacity rule, employees will not count toward the limit
- c. Close Contact Personal Services will now be limited to 40% capacity and, as under the 25% capacity rule, employees will be not count toward the limit
 - A limit of 5 people per 1000 sq. feet applies for smaller businesses without an available fire occupancy capacity
- d. There continues to be no capacity limits on manufacturing, construction, and laboratories—these sectors have never had capacity limits

2. Gatherings Order

- a. The gatherings limit will **stay** at 10 indoors, 25 outdoors

3. The Commonwealth remains in Phase 3 Step 1 of Reopening (Order No. 58)

- a. indoor performance venues and indoor recreation businesses like roller rinks and trampoline parks remain closed

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. 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](#).