

## **Town of Southwick Board of Health and Select Board COVID-19 Update for November 20, 2020**

As of Friday, November 20, 2020, there have been 140 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 <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>.

Based off of the most recent COVID-19 numbers the increase in positive cases has put the Town of Southwick into the “red” category. For a town of less than 10, 000 residents, if there are more than 25 positive cases in one week, the town would move into the “red” category. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding this categorization and what it means for Southwick:

### **When does a community revert from Step 2 of Phase III to Step 1 of Phase III?**

A community must revert to Step I of Phase III of the Commonwealth’s reopening plan, as outlined in the [Governor's COVID-19 Order #56](#), when the community is designated in the “red” category for three consecutive weekly Department of Public Health weekly reports.

### **When a community reverts from Step 2 to Step 1, what date is the reversion effective?**

The rule changes go into effect the Monday after the data is posted. For example, if a community is red for the third week and the Department of Public Health posts the data on Thursday, then the rules go into effect on the following Monday.

### **What changes when a community moves from Step 2 to Step 1 of Phase III?**

The following types of businesses are prohibited from operating during Step 1 of Phase III: indoor performance venues, roller skating rinks, trampoline parks, obstacle courses, laser tag and escape rooms. The following types of businesses must reduce capacity to 40% (currently 50%) when operating during Step 1 of Phase III: driving/flight schools, gyms, libraries, museums, arcades, and lower-contact indoor and outdoor recreation businesses. During Step 1, outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings are limited to 50 people. During Step 1, outdoor theater and performance venues may operate at 25% capacity but no more than 50 people.

All visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow the [new travel orders](#). All travelers arriving to Massachusetts – including Massachusetts residents returning home – are instructed to complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) prior to arrival and to self-quarantine for 14 days, **except travelers from Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont**. All persons are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. For more information, including the most current list of lower-risk states, exemptions, business guidance and other details, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>.

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 recent increase 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](https://southwickma.org). For additional up-to-date information please visit [mass.gov/2019coronavirus](https://mass.gov/2019coronavirus) and [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov). For non-emergency information and assistance, please call 2-1-1 or visit [mass211.org](https://mass211.org).