



ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH

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TO: All Residents

FROM: Sheryl Ball, Health Director

RE: COVID Guidelines- Gatherings, Face Coverings, Early Closure, Stay at Home Advisory

The Acton Board of Health is advising residents of the gathering order, face covering, early closure and stay at home advisory issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in order to safeguard our residents against COVID-19. Currently, Acton is identified as a shaded green community which means that the virus is very active in our community. We understand that a lot of you have COVID “fatigue” but now is not the time to let your guard down and resume normal activities. At this point we should all be familiar with the measures to help reduce the transmission and all do our part to help.

Effective, Friday, November 6, 2020 at 12:01 PM the Governor has issued the following orders:

Stay at Home Advisory: All residents are advised to stay at home between the hours of 10pm – 5am. You should only leave your home for work or school or for essential needs such as seeking emergency medical care, going to the grocery store, or picking up medications.

Face Coverings - are now required at all times when in public places (leaving your home) or while you are at work/school regardless of whether or not you can socially distance. All persons over the age of 5 must wear a face covering whenever in public, indoors or outdoors. Face Coverings are required when carpooling with non-household members. The exclusion for social distancing has been removed, if you’re beyond 6 ft. of a person, you will now be required to wear a face covering at all times. Children between ages 2-5 years are encouraged, but not required to wear the face coverings. Medical and other exemptions still apply, but there are some changes. Employers can now require employees to provide proof of exempted conditions and schools may require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such medical or disabling condition. For a copy of the full order please see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-55/download>

Early Closing – Most businesses must now close at 9:30 PM and may not reopen until 5:00 AM. This includes:

- Restaurants (in-person dining must cease at 9:30 PM, although takeout and delivery may continue for food and non-alcoholic beverages, but not alcohol)
- Liquor stores and other retail establishments that sell alcohol must cease alcohol sales at 9:30 PM (but may continue to sell other products)
- Adult-use marijuana sales must cease at 9:30 PM (not including medical marijuana)
- Indoor and outdoor events
- Theaters/movie theaters (including drive-in movie theaters), and performance venues (indoor and outdoor)

- Youth and adult amateur sports activities
- Golf facilities
- Recreational boating and boating businesses
- Outdoor recreational experiences
- Casinos and horse tracks/simulcast facilities
- Driving and flight schools
- Zoos, botanical gardens, wildlife reserves, nature centers
- Close contact personal services (such as hair and nail salons)
- Gyms, Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Indoor and outdoor pools
- Museums/cultural & historical facilities/guided tours

For a full copy of this order please see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-53/download>

Gatherings - Gathering limits and requiring social distancing of at least 6 ft. at all events (except between members of the same household).

Private residents:

Limited to 10 people for indoor and 25 people for outdoor gathering

Public Spaces/Event Venues must end by 930 PM:

Limited to 25 people indoors

Lower Risk Communities: 100 people (Acton is currently identified as lower risk but subject to change)

All other communities: 50 people

Host and event venues must notify LBOH if they learn an attendee or worker tests positive, must cooperate with contact tracing, including addresses and providing lists of attendees upon request. For a copy of the order please see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-54/download>