



ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH

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TO: All Residents

FROM: Sheryl Ball, Health Director

RE: COVID updates- Gatherings and Reduced Capacity Limits and Vaccine Rollouts

Gatherings and Reduced Business capacity: On December 26, the Governor announced further restrictions to help combat the spread that included reduced gatherings and reduced capacity for most businesses and offices. Last week, the governor extended that order until Jan 24th. In these past few weeks, we have been working with our businesses to help them determine their total capacity under this order to ensure compliance.

Gatherings Limit: The current indoor gathering limit will remain at 10 people. Outdoor gatherings will remain limited to 25 people outside. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces.

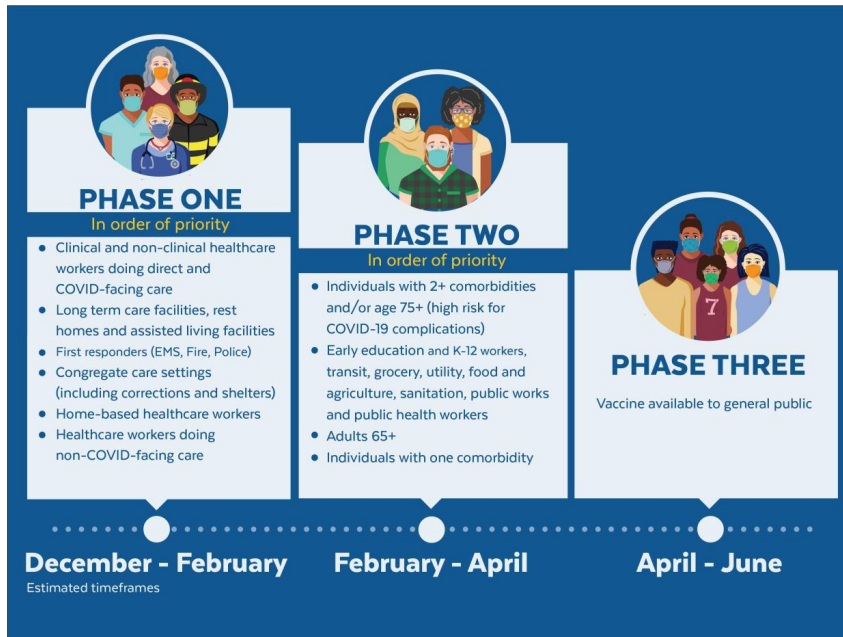
Reduced Capacity Limit: Reduced capacity of 25% will apply to the following businesses and they must close at 9:30 PM and may not reopen until 5:00 AM. This includes:

- 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)
- Close contact personal services
- Indoor (max 10 persons) Outdoor Events (max 25 persons)
- Theaters and performance venues
- Casinos
- Office Spaces
- Places of Worship
- Retail Businesses
- Driving & Flight Schools
- Golf facilities
- Libraries
- Operator of Lodgings

- Arcades and other indoor & outdoor recreation businesses
- Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Indoor and outdoor pools
- Museums/cultural & historical facilities/guided tours by vehicles and vessels
- Sectors not otherwise addressed
- Common areas

For a full copy of these orders please see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-59/download> and <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-60/download>

Vaccine Rollout: See below for the current priority list for when you can get the vaccine.



We are currently working on vaccinating our First Responders (see 3rd bullet under Phase 1) and have partnered with the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health to coordinate a Phase I Regional Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic for all first responders in the participating towns. The clinic will provide the Moderna vaccine, which is given in 2 doses, 28 days apart. We expect the first doses to be given on January 20th to the first responders.

The Town has been in touch with the long-term care facilities in Acton and Life Care of Acton has successfully administered the first dose of vaccine to both residents and staff and anticipate giving the second dose in 28 days. Benchmark Senior Living at Robbins Brook has contracted with CVS for vaccination clinics beginning this week for residents and staff of the facilities.

We need to complete Phase I and we will continue to update the public and staff as we gather more information about Phase I and Phase II of the vaccine rollout, which currently is slated to include the rest of the individuals identified in Phase I. We will then move onto Phase II and will begin with residents that have two comorbidities' or are 75 years of age or older. We are working with surrounding towns through the state and anticipate offering clinics in the future, but we do not have any details at this time. When information becomes available, it will be posted on the town's website.

The Health Division has also received questions about the vaccine and the new strain of the virus making headlines in the United Kingdom. You may find the links below helpful:

- COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine-in-massachusetts>

- When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine? <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine>
- SARS-CoV-2 Variants, CDC web page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

Be Well and Stay Safe! Please remember to continue to wear your face coverings, socially distance and wash your hands often, even after you receive the vaccine. These provisions will be in place for a while, even after everyone is vaccinated. We all need to do our part to help combat the spread of this virus.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the vaccine rollout or Covid-19, please contact the Acton Health Division at 978-929-6632