

COVID-19 Dashboard

A dashboard with daily data updates will is available [Acton's Covid-19 Information Center](http://www.actonma.gov/covid19): <http://www.actonma.gov/covid19>

Translation

Translation of this update is available: Call 978-929-6600
 Ke genjù yaoqiú tígong
 Una transacción de este documento está disponible a pedido
 is dastaavez ka ek lenaden anurodh par upalabdh hai
 Uma transação deste documento está disponível mediante solicitação
 call 978-929-6600

Confirmed Cases

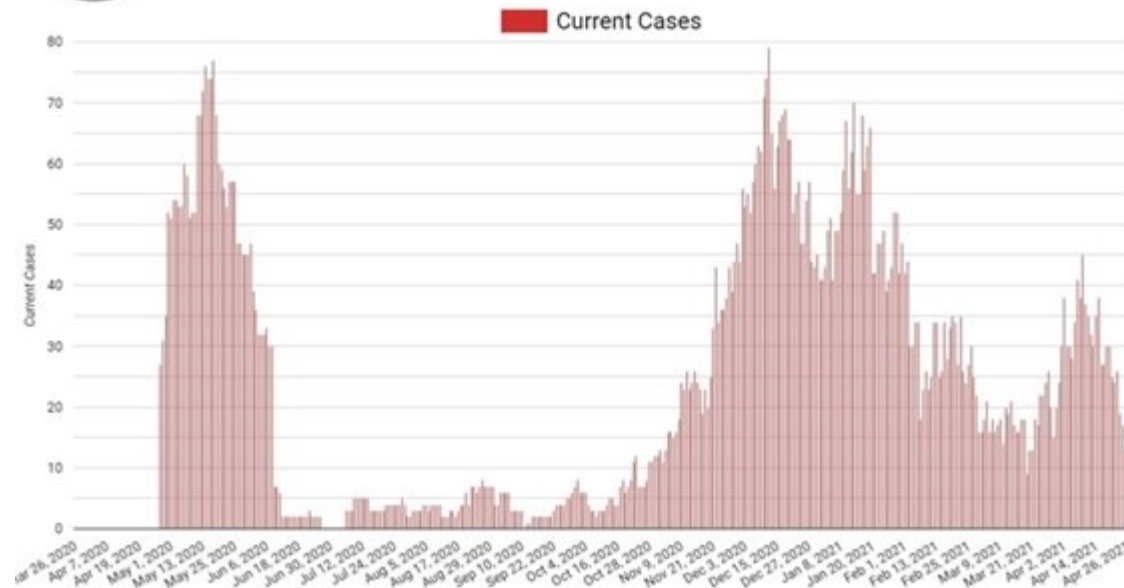
It has been reported to Acton Public Health that at this time there are 951 cumulative cases of COVID-19 in



Acton with 13 individuals in isolation, 906 recovered and 32 fatalities. Above is a chart showing the cumulative number of cases in Acton in blue and the daily trend in current cases in red. The chart below shows the daily trend in current cases as red bars.



Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Acton, Massachusetts



Limited Opening of Town Buildings May 3, 2021

ACTON – The Town of Acton is pleased to announce that town buildings will be open for limited in-person use starting next week.

Town Hall will reopen on Monday, May 3, after closing on March 13, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public spaces and town offices will open with the following restrictions:

- Visitors must wear a face mask at all times.
- Visitors must maintain a physical distance of six feet.

- Visitors must follow a modified traffic flow that will be marked with signs and floor markings.

Those wanting to do business with the town in-person are asked to:

- Sanitize their hands upon entering Town Hall, and to wash hands frequently.
- Refrain from shaking hands with others or with town employees, and to use hands-free greetings.
- Please limit their stay to 15 minutes or less, or request an outside meeting.
- Stay home if they are not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Making appointments for in-person business is recommended to reduce wait times.

Town Hall hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Town Hall workspaces will be operating under reduced capacity, so in-person visitors may face unexpected wait times. The Town is still operating the Town Service Hotline at 978-929-6600 for any questions about town services.

Public meetings of government bodies will remain closed to in-person attendance and will continue to be available live on Zoom. No community programs will be held in town buildings, though outdoor programs will continue.

Acton Memorial Library will continue to operate with limited hours. The first floor of the library is open for browsing on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2-5 p.m.; and Monday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Patrons are asked to spend no more than 30 minutes inside. No appointment is necessary, but occupancy is capped so patrons may have to wait to enter. Books on hold may be picked up during curbside hours, Tuesday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Policies for in-person use of town buildings will be changed when best medical advice and state guidance allow.



Baker-Polito Administration Announces Plans for Continued Reopening

[View press release](#)

Effective on March 22: Massachusetts advanced to Step 1 of Phase IV of the Commonwealth's reopening plan on Monday, March 22. This opened a range of previously closed business sectors under tight capacity restrictions that are expected to be adjusted over time if favorable trends in the public health data

continue. Gathering limits for event venues and in public settings are currently 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards remain at a maximum of 25 people, with indoor house gatherings remaining at 10 people. ([additional details](#))

Effective on April 30: Face Coverings Order will be [relaxed](#) for some outdoor settings.

Effective on May 10, Massachusetts will reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries:

- Large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks currently open as part of Phase 4, Step 1 at 12% will be permitted to increase capacity to 25%.
- The Commonwealth will reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries including amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks that will be permitted to operate at a 50% capacity after submitting safety plans to the Department of Public Health.
- Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts after submitting safety plans to a local board of health or the DPH.
- Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate and high risk sports.
- Singing will also be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

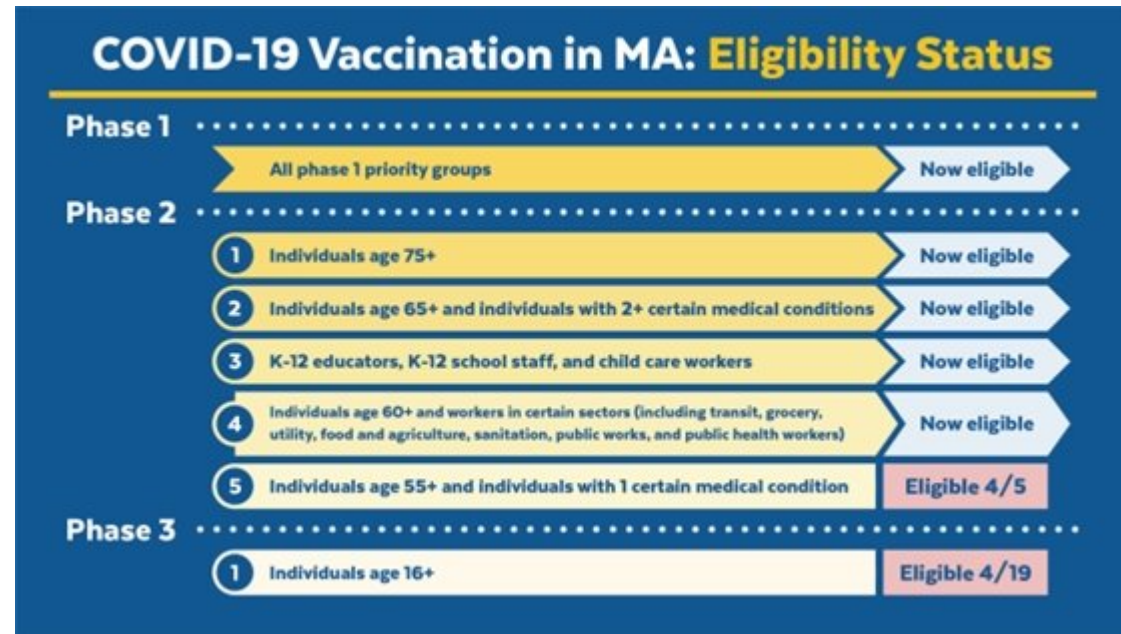
Effective on May 29, Subject to public health and vaccination data:

- Gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.
- Additional Phase 4, Step 2 industries will be permitted to open including
 - Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals, at 50% of their previous capacity and after submitting safety plans to the local board of health.
 - Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries, will be subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90 minute limit and no dance floors.
- The restaurant guidance will be updated to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase the maximum table size to 10.

Effective on August 1: Subject to public health and vaccination data, remaining industries will be permitted to open including dance clubs, and nightclubs, saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs and other facilities, indoor water parks and ball pits. All industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices. The gathering limit will be rescinded. *Depending on vaccine distribution and public health data, the Administration may consider re-evaluating the August 1 date.*

All Individuals 16 and Older Eligible for Vaccine As of April 19th

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-reminds-the-public-that-individuals-55-and-individuals-with-one-certain-medical-condition-eligible-for-vaccine-april-5th-adopts-cdc-guidance-for-new-medical-conditions-to-expand-eligibility-for-more-individuals-on-april>



Guidance for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines that are currently authorized in the United States are very effective at protecting vaccinated people against severe COVID-19. Until more people are vaccinated, some prevention measures will continue to be necessary for all people, even people who have been fully vaccinated. The following guidance issued by the Mass DPH in March 2021 is based on [CDC recommendations](#) for fully vaccinated people.

View the full guidance here: <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-people-who-are-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19>

Acton Memorial Library Hours & Services - Starting April 5!

Library 1st Floor Open for Browsing

Starting Monday, April 5

Saturday
10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Sunday
2 - 5 pm

Monday
10:30 am - 5:30 pm

No appointment necessary
You may need to wait to
enter the library
Please limit your time in the
library to 30 minutes

Curbside Hold Pick Up

**Tuesday - Friday
10:30 am - 5:30 pm**

For holds that are
"Ready For Pick Up" ONLY
Call the library
when you arrive
978-929-6655 Option 2

Also check out Zoom programs, ebooks, databases,
streaming services and more at ActonMemorialLibrary.org

More Information about COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Where and How to Book an Appointment:

Last week, the state launched a preregistration system for its mass vaccination sites, and through the system appointments are offered based on eligibility and available, nearby appointments.

Residents are advised that the system only accounts for appointments available at mass vaccination sites, and more sites are expected to be added to the preregistration system in April. More vaccination sites can be also be found by clicking [here](#) and residents are

also encouraged to reach out to local pharmacies to identify other potential vaccination opportunities.

To preregister:

- Eligible residents will complete the online form at mass.gov/COVIDVaccine to request to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site nearby.
- After completing the form, residents will get a confirmation via their preferred method of contact (text, e-mail, phone) and receive a weekly update about their status. Residents may opt out of preregistration at any time if they secure an appointment elsewhere.
- When an appointment becomes available at a mass vaccination site, the resident will be notified and will have 24 hours to accept the appointment once it is offered. If an appointment is not accepted after 24 hours, the resident will go back into the queue to wait for another appointment.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule Resource 211 line remains available for those without internet access or who have difficulty using the internet for the preregistration process.

The 211 line can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1 and selecting the prompt for “Help Scheduling a Vaccine Appointment.” The hotline is only available for residents eligible for the vaccine without internet access or who otherwise cannot use the appointment site, and will take calls Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Translators will be available to help through the 211 line. Callers will be able to speak with a live representative who will help them find a nearby vaccination location and make an appointment. For more information about the 211 line, [click here](#).

Vaccinations for Homebound Individuals

Acton’s Vaccine Task Force is working to identify homebound residents to ensure that they are able to receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines are still very limited in Massachusetts, and there is no guarantee that the Town will be receiving more. However, if the Town able to obtain vaccine, officials want to be sure to vaccinate those that may find it difficult to obtain the vaccine by traditional methods.

Homebound individuals includes those that need the help of another person or medical equipment such as crutches, a walker, or a wheelchair to leave their home, or their medical provider believes that their health or illness could get worse if they leave their home, and they typically do not leave their home. They may be those who have a permanent condition that prevents them from getting vaccinated, even if transportation were available. Examples of this include those who are bedbound, those who are extremely frail and weak, those with a chronic cognitive decline (dementia) and those who need one or two people to physically help them get out of the home.

If you or someone you know may qualify, regardless of age, please contact the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or at seniorcenter@actonma.gov.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form

THIS IS NOT A SIGN-UP FOR THE VACCINE!

If you are able to make an appointment at one of the clinics at mass.gov or with your personal physician, please do so!!

This form is intended for the Acton Board of Health to collect information on residents interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

[Click here to access the vaccine interest form](#)

Acton COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form

The Town of Acton has created a COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form. Acton residents or those who work in Acton who meet the eligibility criteria for Phase One or the first two priority groups of Phase Two (individuals age 75+ and individuals age 65+ or with two or more comorbidities) and are interested in receiving the vaccine are asked to complete [this form](#). **The form will be used to notify respondents of their eligibility only. It is not a form for reservations, a waitlist or appointments.**

Not all subgroups are currently listed on the Vaccine Interest Form. The town will update the form regularly as new subgroups are identified by the state and become eligible for the vaccine.

You may fill out the form on behalf of someone else. If you are inquiring about the eligibility of more than one person, please fill out one form for each person.

Eligibility notifications and updates will be sent via email. If you don't have access to email and don't have someone who can submit the form on your behalf, the town will call you at the number provided on the form.

If you do not have access to the internet to submit the form, please contact the Acton

Town Services Hotline at 978-929-6600.

Town officials will continue to monitor the situation and share updates, such as specific dates of when the vaccine may become available to more people, as that information becomes available.

The Acton Public Health Department encourages everyone to stay informed regarding the COVID-19 vaccination process. The following resources are recommended for the most up-to-date information:

- [Acton COVID-19 Information Center](#)
- [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Timeline Phase Overview](#)
- [Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Latest vaccine update in Massachusetts](#)
- [Vaccine locations for individuals currently eligible to be vaccinated in Massachusetts](#)

Childcare Subsidy, Rent Relief, and Mortgage Relief Programs Available

New Childcare Subsidy for Income-Eligible Local Families

Childcare Subsidies are available for low to moderate-income families in Acton.

Participating families will receive \$3,000 for children preschool aged or younger and \$2,000 for children in Kindergarten to age 13 towards their daycare or after school costs so that parents and guardians may work, go to school or seek employment.

Funds will be allocated to income qualified families on a first come, first serve basis by each Town using the income limits below with a maximum award during the grant year not to exceed \$5,000 per child. Interested residents should contact the Laura Ducharme lducharme@actonma.gov or (978) 929-6651.

The Town also would like to notify residents that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP) are currently accepting new applications.

The MAP and ERAP Programs are a collaborative effort with the Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO), who will provide administrative support for the program.

Income eligibility for the ERAP and MAP program is up to 100% of the Area Median Income (\$119k for a family of four).

Eligible residents are encouraged to apply for these programs. Applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis until funds are exhausted. To learn more about additional local and government resources available to assist with rent and other essential needs please visit abuw.org/COVID19. For more information about the ERAP, MAP or Childcare Subsidy programs or to request application assistance please contact:

Laura Ducharme, Community Services Coordinator at (978) 929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov

CONTACT:
The Resource Inc
Melissa Norton Vincent
Executive Director
Ph: 508-696-3285
Email: Melissa@theresource.org
P.O. Box 45-48
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
Jean Stanley
Director of CDBG Programs
Ph: 508-694-6521
Email: jean@theresource.org
23 White's Path, Suite G2
So. Yarmouth, MA 02664
Email: trmicroloans@gmail.com
Website: trmicroloans.org

There is an exciting new regional Micro-enterprise Forgivable Loan Program being offered to micro businesses in the Towns of Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard, and Westford affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing funding received from the CARES Act and Community Development Block Grant Funds through the MA Department of Housing and Community Development, this program will help bridge the gap for small businesses enduring hardship during this difficult time.

The regional Micro-enterprise Forgivable Loan Program targets businesses with five (5) or fewer employees including the business owner(s) as defined by HUD's micro-enterprise definition whose business owners meet L/M Income qualifications. For applications and information please use the contact information to the left.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS REVIEWED ON A FIRST, COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

dhcd
Massachusetts

tri
the resource inc.
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[Small business assistance resources available.](#)

Updates from Board of Selectmen Meeting

Use the following link to view the latest updates from the Board of Selectmen Chair.
<http://www.actonma.gov/bos>



[View testing location map](#)



The Acton Town Services Hotline is available to connect residents with a live worker to receive information and answers to their questions about the latest government news, COVID-19, and Town services in general. Hotline workers also help answer questions related to the topics such as town meetings, financial relief programs for residents and business owners, and Town reopening plans. The Acton Town Services hotline number is 978-929-6600 and is open on Monday through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



[Watch now!](#)

broadcast live on local FM radio at Acton's station WAEM 94.9 FM.

Testing Information

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides comprehensive information about COVID-19 testing including an updated list of testing locations. More information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>. An interactive map showing testing locations is also available using the link on the left.

Town Services Hotline (978) 929-6600

The Acton Town Services Hotline is available to connect residents with a live worker to receive information and answers to their questions about the latest government

Java with John Program

For the latest COVID information other updates from Acton Town Manager John Mangiaratti and guests tune into the Java with John program Fridays at 10am. View previous episodes using the link shown to the left. This program is produced by the Acton Council on Aging in collaboration with ActonTV. The weekly program is also


Transfer Station

The Acton Transfer Station will continue operating with the adjusted schedule for the initial reopening. The facility is currently open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The first hour (7-8 a.m.) is designated for Seniors (65+). The Transfer Station will also begin to accept payments (checks only) at the office for bulky items by early June. Staff are continuing to look at how to re-introduce some recycling streams such as polystyrene in later phases.


The purchase of Transfer Station and Recycling Facility vehicle stickers are now [available online](#).

For more information on the Transfer Station and Recycling Center, please call 978-929-7742.

For Additional Updates on Town Services go to the COVID-19 Information Center <http://www.actonma.gov/covid19>

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A message from the Town of Acton, Massachusetts.
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