

COVID-19 Update for Devens: December 4, 2020



Risk Level in Devens: Effective December 7, 2020, Devens will be subject to the state's COVID-19 High Risk category and will be required to revert back from Phase 3 Step 2, to Phase 3 Step 1. What does this mean for Devens? See Figure 1. While this change does not significantly impact many activities in Devens, residents and businesses, all are encouraged to be diligent and take all the necessary precautions to keep you and your loved ones safe during this pandemic. Gathering size limits still remain in effect:

- Indoor at private residences: 10 people max;
- Outdoor at private residences: 25 people max;
- Indoor gatherings in public spaces and at event venues: 25 people max;

All gatherings must end and disperse by 9:30 PM. Organizers of gatherings must also report known positive COVID-19 cases to the local health department. Fines for violating the gathering order will be \$500 for each person above the limit at a particular gathering. Full details [here](#).

Stay-At-Home Advisory Remains in Effect: All residents of Massachusetts are advised to stay home between the hours of 10pm and 5am.

Holiday Shopping Workplace Safety Standards: The MA Department of Labor Standards has provided a reminder to retailers of the need to maintain required COVID-19 safety measures during the holiday shopping season. [This advisory](#) highlights some common questions and complaints related to increased customer volumes during the holiday shopping season. Shoppers should be aware of these requirements as well to stay safe.

Employer Responsibilities During COVID-19 Pandemic: The State office of Housing and Economic Development has issued a [letter to Employers](#) to reinforce employer responsibilities during this crisis. It is critical for employers to be aware of their role and responsibilities for dealing with employees that have tested positive and to work with local health departments for contact tracing purposes.

Business sector guidance for Phase 3, Steps 1 & 2		
A community that has been classified as Lower Risk must revert back to Phase 3, Step 1 if it becomes classified and remains a High Risk/Red community for 3 consecutive weeks.		
	Phase 3, Step 1	Phase 3, Step 2
Indoor Theaters and Performance Venues	Closed	Open - 50% capacity but no more than 250 people
Outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings	50 person limit	100 person limit
Outdoor Theater and Performance Venues	Open - 25% capacity but no more than 50 people	Open - 50% capacity but no more than 250 people
Roller Skating Rinks, Trampolines, Obstacle Courses, Laser Tag, and Escape Rooms	Closed	Open, 50% capacity
Arcades, Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Businesses - lower contact activities	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
Driving/Flight Schools	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
Gyms	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
Libraries	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
Museums	Open, 40% capacity	Open, 50% capacity
Restaurants	Music performances allowed indoors but no wind or brass instruments or singing	Music performances allowed indoors but no singing
Retail - fitting rooms	Open for businesses where operation is necessary	Open for all retail stores

For additional details and information visit mass.gov/reopening-protocols

Figure 1: Business Sector Guidance for Phase 3 Step 1



Importance of proper ventilation in buildings: Viruses spread indoors at a much higher rate as evident by the current spikes in COVID-19 cases in MA and throughout the US and the world. Studies show that better ventilation in buildings and throughout the work environment can help improve occupant comfort and productivity but it can also help reduce the spread of air-borne viruses like COVID-19. Employers should review their existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to ensure they are operating properly and have the proper filtration in place. OSHA has published a [guidance document building owners and managers](#).

Quarantine Guidance: Have you tested positive or been required to quarantine due to possible exposure? The State Department of Public Health has developed guidelines and information about what to do and not to do while you are in quarantine. [View the guidance information here](#).

COVID-19 Financial Support for Small Businesses: Resources and information for funding available to small businesses hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as workforce training efforts, can be found [here](#).