

COVID-19 Update for Devens: July 29, 2020



Stop the Spread initiative: State program that provides free COVID-19 testing in targeted communities across the Commonwealth. The Stop the Spread initiative is a data-driven focused effort to reduce the prevalence of COVID-19 in communities that are above the state average in total cases, positive test rate. Those communities include Agawam, Brockton, Methuen, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, Taunton and Worcester, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Marlborough and New Bedford. Devens is not a targeted community due to infection rates being below the state average. While these sites are being launched in these communities, they are **open to all residents of the Commonwealth**. A full list of all COVID-19 testing sites in MA is available at www.mass.gov/gettested. Since launching Stop the Spread on July 10, 19,083 residents have been tested at these free testing sites with a positivity rate just under 1.8%. The Command Center expects these numbers to change as additional testing results continue to come in. **Residents are reminded that if they test positive for COVID-19, please answer the call when they are contacted by the Community Tracing Collaborative or their local board of health. Also, any individual who needs a safe place to isolate can call (617) 367-5150 to access an isolation and recovery site at no cost.**



Travel Order: Starting August 1, all visitors and Massachusetts residents returning home, including students returning to campuses for the fall semester, must fill out a "Massachusetts Travel Form" and quarantine for 14 days unless they are coming from a COVID-19 lower risk state or they can produce a negative COVID-19 test result administered no more than 72 hours prior to arriving in Massachusetts, or they are included in one of the other, limited exemptions. Individuals who get a test must remain in quarantine until they receive their negative test results. Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day. Travelers are currently exempt from this requirement if they are coming from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Hawaii, or fall into another narrow exemption category. Read the updated guidance [here](#).

Updates to COVID-19 Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces: Updates have been made to incorporate the requirements of the travel order. This included sector-specific updates for lodging, higher education, office spaces and other industry sectors. Lodging operators are required to notify guests about this new travel order. Employers are strongly discouraged from allowing business-related travel to destinations other than those appearing on the list of COVID-19 lower risk states. Employers that permit employer-paid or -reimbursed travel to those states should take measures to ensure employees comply with this order. Employers are also urged to strongly discourage their employees from taking leisure travel to destinations not included on the list of COVID-19 lower-risk states. Read the updated standards [here](#). All travelers and residents are required to continue to follow the Administration's order that requires face coverings, and practice good hygiene, social distancing and regular hand washing. People should not travel to Massachusetts if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Travelers will be informed of this order and new travel guidance by airlines, passenger rail corporations, bus companies and some major travel agents when booking trips and before arrival in Massachusetts.

Please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask in public, and do your part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by washing your hands frequently and staying home if you are experiencing any symptoms. More information on COVID-19 for MA businesses and residents can be found at: <http://bit.ly/MADPHCOVID19>.

The Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC), acting in its capacity as the local Board of Health for Devens, continues to monitor the situation in Devens in collaboration with the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, the Devens Public Safety Officer (Devens Fire Chief Tim Kelly), and MassDevelopment. **For immediate questions and concerns, residents and businesses can dial 2-1-1.** Any Questions for the DEC can be directed to 978.772.8831.