

COVID-19 Update for Devens: March 22, 2021



COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS:

MA Advances STEP 1 of PHASE IV: Effective March 22, 2021, Massachusetts has advanced to Step 1 of Phase IV of the reopening plan as public health metrics continue to trend in a positive direction. Stadiums, arenas and ballparks are now permitted to operate at a strict 12% capacity limit after submitting a plan to the Department of Public Health (DPH). Gathering limits for event venues and in public settings have increased to 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. Dance floors are now permitted at weddings and other events only, and overnight summer camps will be allowed to operate this coming summer. Exhibition and convention halls may also begin to operate, following gatherings limits and event protocols. Other Phase IV sectors must continue to remain closed. [Complete details can be found here.](#)

Travel Order: The Massachusetts Travel Order originally issued in July 2020 has also been replaced with a Travel Advisory, effective March 22. The new travel advisory will urge all persons entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are advised to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival if they have been out of the state for 24 hours or more. The advisory does not apply to anyone who is returning to Massachusetts after an absence of fewer than 24 hours or travelers who are fully vaccinated. Additional details can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-advisory>. **Travelers are still encouraged to consult and follow the CDC's guidelines and requirements for travel.**

VACCINE UPDATE:

Eligibility: Everyone in Phase 1, individuals age 75 and older, individuals age 65-74, individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions, residents and staff of low income and affordable senior housing, and K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and child care workers are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine now. There are different ways to find a vaccine appointment:

- Everyone, regardless of which phase you are in, can now preregister for an appointment at one of the seven mass vaccination sites at [VaccineSignUp.mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/vaccine-sign-up). It is quick and easy.
- Use [VaxFinder.mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/vax-finder) to search for appointments at pharmacies, health care providers, and other community locations.

Educators: Massachusetts has also designated 4 days where the state's 7 mass vaccination sites will only offer 1st dose appointments for K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and child care workers (3/27, 4/3, 4/10, and 4/11). Workers in this group must use the preregistration system to request an appointment at one of the 7 mass vaccination sites and attest they are a K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, or child care worker.

Eligibility: The vaccine eligibility timeline for the remaining groups is as follows:

- 3/22/21: 60+ and certain workers
- 4/5/21: 55+ and those with one certain medical condition
- 4/19/21: General public ages 16 years of age and older

Have questions or concerns about the vaccine? Trust the facts:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax>



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Support for Residences: Everyone has a role to play in helping to fight this pandemic. While the vaccine rollout continues, please continue to do your part by respecting social distance protocols, washing your hands frequently, and wearing a mask at all times when outside or in public settings. Additional prevention and treatment resources are available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-prevention-and-treatment>

Small Business Assistance: The state continues to provide funding resources to small businesses and will soon be announcing the availability of funding to support small business technical assistance and community development financial institutions. Go to: <https://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org/> for more details.

Additional support for Businesses: Remember, everything your employees do outside of work can impact the staff and business when they come to work. Encourage staff to have lunch/breaks separately and avoid carpooling. Improve ventilation in your establishment by opening windows and doors where feasible. 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](#).

STAY SAFE!

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.