

COVID-19 Update for Devens: April 27, 2021



COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS:

On March 22, Massachusetts loosened capacity restrictions and advanced to Step 1 of Phase 4 of the reopening plan. Since then, case rates dropped by 20% to the lowest levels recorded since last summer. As public health metrics continue trending in a positive direction, the Governor has announced that Massachusetts will implement the following changes to the current COVID-19 restrictions:

Effective April 30th:

The Face Coverings Order will be relaxed for some outdoor settings. Face coverings will only be required outside in public when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times required by sector-specific guidance. Face coverings will **still be required at all times in indoor public places**. Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether held indoors or outdoors and whether held in a public space or private home, except for when eating or drinking. At smaller gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required. The \$300 fine as an enforcement mechanism will be eliminated.



Phase 4, Step 2 Industries and Gathering Changes:

Effective Monday, May 10th :

- 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%.
- Reopen some 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 May 29th :

- 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.
- Subject to public health and vaccination data, 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.
- Subject to public health and vaccination data, 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 August 1st*:

- 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
- 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 1st date.*

For more information, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts> .

VACCINATION UPDATE:

Massachusetts remains first in the nation for first vaccine doses and total doses administered per capita, among states with more than 5 million people. To date, Massachusetts has received a total of 6,826,740 doses and has administered 5,827,318 doses.

Eligibility: As of April 19, 2021, People age 16 and older who live, work, or study in Massachusetts can get vaccinated.

Book Your Appointment:

There are different ways to find a vaccine appointment:

- You can register for an appointment at one of the mass vaccination sites at VaccineSignUp.mass.gov. It is quick and easy.
- Use VaxFinder.mass.gov to search for appointments at pharmacies, health care providers, and other community locations.



We are working on the organization of a regional vaccination site at Devens but to date, no vaccine has been allocated. We will continue to update the public as more information becomes available.

We are excited to be turning the corner in this pandemic but in the meantime, please continue to practice social distancing, wear your mask when in public, and wash your hands frequently!

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 in public settings. Additional prevention and treatment resources are available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-prevention-and-treatment>

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.