

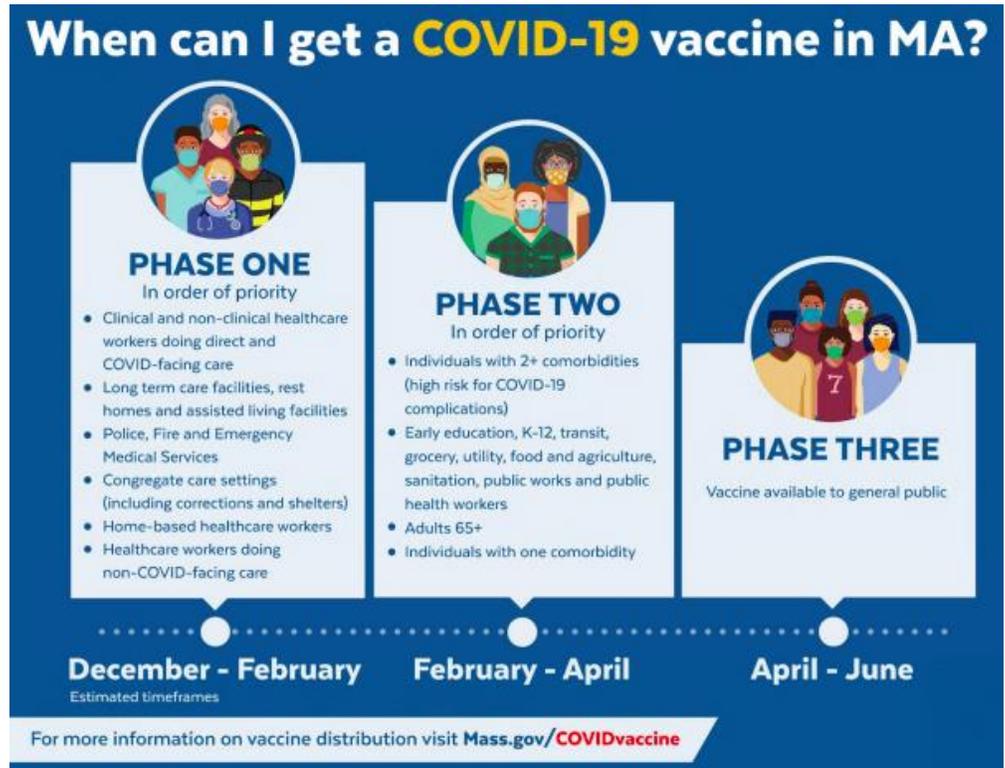
# COVID-19 Update for Devens: December 11, 2020



**Vaccine Update for Massachusetts\*:** Vaccine shipments to Massachusetts are set to begin around December 15. Based on information at this time, Massachusetts is expecting 300,000 first doses of the vaccine to be delivered by the end of December. The first vaccines, manufactured by Moderna and Pfizer, will require two doses administered 3-4 weeks apart.

In collaboration with the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group, the Administration designated groups of medical workers, first responders and residents most at risk for serious illness to receive the vaccine before the general population. The Vaccine Advisory Group is made up of leading medical, infectious disease and public health experts as well as representatives from communities of color and representatives of high-risk populations.

The Administration plans to receive and distribute over 2 million doses to priority population groups by the end of March. The vaccine is expected to be available to the general public in April. View the administration's vaccine website: [www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine) for more information.



\* All delivery dates and quantities are subject to change. Vaccines are still pending FDA emergency use authorization and Massachusetts will not distribute the COVID-19 vaccine until it receives this authorization.

**Entire State Shifts to Step 3 Phase 1:** Effective December 13, 2020, All COVID-19 High Risk category and will be required to revert back from Phase 3 Step 2, to Phase 3 Step 1. This will reduce indoor capacities across a broad range of sectors of the economy and tighten several other workplace restrictions. The Administration announced the rollback to respond to an increase in new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations since the Thanksgiving holiday that is straining the health care system in Massachusetts. Specific rollback restrictions include:

#### Restaurants and Venues:

- Patrons must wear masks at all times except when eating and drinking
- Restaurants must seat no more than six patrons per table
- Restaurants must impose a 90-minute time limit on tables
- Musical performances at restaurants will no longer be permitted
- Customers are encouraged to dine only with members of the same household.

#### Offices and Gyms

- In offices, employees must wear masks at their place of work when not in their own workspace and alone
- Employers are encouraged to close or limit the use of break rooms
- Patrons must wear masks at all times in gyms
- Encourage all employers to offer teleworking to their employees when possible.

#### Gathering size limits:

- 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.

[Read the full order rolling Massachusetts back to Phase III, Step 1 here.](#) All 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.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES AND RESOURCES:

**Quarantine and Isolation Tips to make COVID-19 isolation and quarantine easier:** The State Department of Public Health has developed guidelines and information about what to do and not to do while you are in quarantine or isolation. [View the guidance information 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.

**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](#)

**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](#).

View the Governor's full 12/8/20 announcement/briefing below:



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.