



***Town of Sheffield
Board of Health***
***Town Hall – 21 Depot Square
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Rollback to Phase 3, Step 1

December 11, 2020

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced that effective Sunday, December 13th, all Massachusetts communities will return to Step 1 of Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan. This will reduce indoor capacities across a broad range of sectors of the economy and tighten several other workplace restrictions. The rollback to Phase 3, Step 1 responds to the increase in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations since the Thanksgiving holiday, which is straining Massachusetts' health care system and its health care workers.

The return to Step 1 requires the closure of certain businesses designated as Step 2 industries. In addition, capacity limits are reduced to 40% statewide for most industries, and outdoor gathering limits are reduced from 100 persons to 50 persons.

These new measures are designed to prevent infection and viral spread, especially in indoor settings, and create stronger mask compliance, more social distancing, and limits to the time spent with people that do not reside in your immediate household.

The Phase 3, Step 1 Rollback includes the following restrictions:

- Outdoor gatherings at event venues are limited to no more than 50 people
- All hosts of outdoor gatherings of more than 25 people are required to provide advance notice of the gathering the Sheffield Board of Health
- Indoor theaters and performance venues and higher contact indoor recreation businesses are required to close to the public
- Outdoor theaters / performance venues are limited to 25% capacity; no more than 50 people

Capacity is reduced from 50% to 40% of permitted occupancy for the following:

- Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Businesses
- Libraries
- Museums
- Retail
- Offices
- Places of Worship
- Lodging (common areas)

This new capacity limit does not apply to sectors that do not currently have a percentage-based capacity limit, including restaurants, laboratories and close contact personal services.

Restaurants and Venues

The new guidelines for restaurants and other venues with seated dining include:

- Patrons must wear masks at all times except when eating and drinking
- Restaurants must seat no more than six (6) patrons per table
- Restaurants must impose a 90-minute time limit on tables

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- Musical performances at restaurants will no longer be permitted
- Customers are encouraged to dine only with members of the same household.

Offices

New guidelines for workplaces include:

- 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

Continue to offer teleworking to employees when possible.

The following links contain additional guidance:

COVID-19 Order No. 58 Returning all Municipalities to Phase 3, Step 1:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-58/download>

COVID19 Order No. 57 Regulating Gatherings in the Commonwealth

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-57/download>

Business Sector Guidance for Phase 3, Steps 1 and 2

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/phase-3-step-1-and-step-2-reopening-protocols-english/download>

(English)

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/phase-3-step-1-and-step-2-reopening-protocols-spanish/download>

(Spanish)

Additionally, the following link provides information on the current status of COVID-19 vaccinations.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions-vaccine-providers>

The Sheffield Board of Health will be providing additional information on Phase 1 of the vaccination process as soon as this information is finalized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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