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The Sheffield Board of Health is hereby notifying Sheffield residents and business owners of three new COVID-19 regulations issued by Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker.

COVID-19 Order No. 53: Order Requiring Early Closing for Certain Businesses and Activities, Limiting Hours for Alcohol and Adult Use Cannabis Sales, and Modifying Chapter 138 License Renewal Requirements (**Read the full text of this Order at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-53/download>**)

COVID-19 Order No. 54: Revised Order Further Regulating Gatherings in the Commonwealth (**Read the full text of this Order at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-54/download>**)

COVID-19 Order No. 55: Revised Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places (**read the full text of this Order at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-55/download>**)

These Orders are effective at 12:01 AM on November 6, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the state of emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Summary of Key Components of COVID-19 Order No. 53

Businesses, facilities and activities subject to the daily mandatory closing period between 9:30 PM and 5:00 AM include:

- Restaurants, provided however that restaurants may offer food and non-alcoholic beverages for take-out and delivery during the mandatory closing period
- Arcades and Other Indoor and Outdoor Recreation
- Indoor and Outdoor Events
- Indoor and Outdoor Performance Venues
- Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities
- Outdoor Recreational Experiences and Educational Activities
- Close Contact Personal Services
- Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Museums/Cultural & Historical Facilities/Guided Tours

During the daily mandatory closing period, no person, business, organization, establishment, premises, or service holding or operating under a license issued pursuant to Chapter 138 or Chapter 23K of the General Laws may sell or serve or provide alcohol of any kind to any person anywhere in the Commonwealth. During the daily mandatory closing period, no person, business, organization, establishment, premises, or service holding or operating under a license issued pursuant to Chapter 94G of the General Laws may sell adult-use cannabis or adult-use cannabis products of any kind to any person anywhere in the Commonwealth.

Violations of COVID-19 Order No. 53 may result in civil fines of up to \$500 per violation. The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission or a local licensing authority may, after notice to the licensee and a reasonable opportunity to be heard regarding a violation and with satisfactory proof of a violation, suspend, revoke, or cancel a license or take other appropriate enforcement action.

Summary of Key Components of COVID-19 Order No. 54

The following limitations apply to indoor and outdoor gatherings including, without limitation, all social, community, civic, public, and leisure events, as well as conferences, conventions, fundraisers, and other similar events or assemblies.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

a/ Required Social Distancing: In addition to the capacity restrictions below, all participants in indoor and outdoor gatherings, including gatherings at private residences, must maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from every other participant, except where participants are members of the same household.

b/ Gatherings at Private Residences: 1. Indoor gatherings at private residences and in any other place not falling within the definition of an event venue or public setting are limited to a maximum of 10 people. 2. Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in any other place not falling within the definition of an event venue or public settings are limited to a maximum of 25 people.

c/ Gatherings at Event Venues and in Public Settings: 1. Indoor gatherings at event venues or in public settings are limited to a maximum of 25 people. 2. Outdoor gatherings at event venues or in public settings are limited to, in the case of Lower Risk Communities, a maximum of 100 persons; in the case of communities that do not qualify as Lower Risk Communities, a maximum of 50 persons.

Members of the same household, when assembled together with no other non-household members present, do not constitute a gathering and shall not be subject to these capacity limitations. Workers and staff present to provide services to participants shall not count towards the capacity limitations in this Section. Entities subject to sector-specific rules pursuant to Indoor and Outdoor Events Guidance issued by the Department of Labor Standards, and operating in compliance with applicable sector-specific COVID-19 safety rules and any applicable capacity limitations issued by a regulating agency under the authority of an executive order, are exempt from Order 54 Gathering Limits and Requirements. In addition, outdoor gatherings for political expression and indoor/outdoor religious activities following COVID-19 safety rules and capacity limitations set forth in the Places of Worship sector-specific rules are exempt from Order 54.

The term “event venue or public setting” shall include any setting open to the public and any event venue, club, park, or other venue or space, public or private, that is used or available for gatherings through lease, license, permit, contract, reservation, or similar arrangement. All gatherings, no matter the size or location, must end and participants must disperse by 9:30 PM, with the exceptions of religious gatherings and political gatherings.

Consistent with COVID-19 Order No. 55, all persons over the age of 5 must wear masks or cloth face coverings over their mouth and nose when in a public location, including at gatherings in public, except as provided in Section 2 of the Order. Legal exceptions to Order No. 54 are contained in Section 7 of the Order.

Summary of Key Components of COVID-19 Order No. 55

All persons over the age of 5 must wear masks or cloth face coverings over their mouth and nose when in a public location, whether indoors or outdoors. Public locations include, without limitation, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores; public transportation; public streets and ways; and any location that hosts indoor or outdoor events or performances. If a customer refuses to wear a mask or face covering for non-medical reasons, the operator of a facility or business may decline entry to that individual.

The Order includes exemptions for medical and/or disabling conditions that prevent persons from safely wearing a mask or face covering, and permits the temporary removal of masks or face coverings for eating and drinking. Employers and schools may require employees and students to provide documentation verifying conditions that prevent an employee or student from wearing a mask or face covering.

Masks or face coverings are encouraged at all indoor and outdoor gatherings at private homes, but are only required when such gatherings include more than 10 people and where attendees include non-household members.

Fines of up to \$300 per violation may be imposed for violations of this Order.