

Important Reopening Update

MA Governor Charlie Baker has [announced](#) that effective Sunday, December 13, all communities in Massachusetts will [return to Step 1 of Phase 3](#), of the Commonwealth's [reopening plan](#). This will reduce indoor capacities across a broad range of sectors of the economy and tighten several other workplace restrictions. The Administration announced the roll-back 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.

The roll back will include the following restrictions:

- Outdoor [gatherings](#) at event venues will be limited to no more than 50 people
- Hosts of outdoor [gatherings](#) of greater than 25 people will be required to provide advance notice of the gathering their local board of health
- Indoor theaters and performance venues and higher contact indoor recreation businesses will be required to close to the public
- Outdoor theaters and performance venues will be limited to 25% capacity, and no more than 50 people
- In all communities, capacity will be reduced from 50% to 40% for the following sectors:
 - Arcades/Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Businesses
 - Driving and Flight Schools
 - Gyms/Health Clubs
 - Libraries
 - Museums
 - Retail
 - Offices
 - Places of Worship
 - Lodging (common areas)
 - Golf facilities
 - Movie Theaters (Maximum 50 people per theater)

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

The Administration also announced new guidelines for restaurants and other Venues with Seated Dining and Offices and Gyms:

Restaurants and other 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
- Food court seating must be closed in malls

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

The Administration continues to encourage all employers to offer teleworking to their employees when possible.