

An aerial photograph of the Massachusetts State House in Boston at dusk. The building's large, illuminated golden dome is the central focus on the right side. The surrounding city skyline, including several skyscrapers, is visible in the background under a dramatic, cloudy sky with orange and blue hues. In the foreground, a road with light trails from traffic winds through a green park area with trees and a flagpole. The overall scene is a mix of urban architecture and natural greenery.

Reopening Massachusetts

September 29, 2020



Lower Risk Communities: Progression to Phase 3, Step 2

Effective Monday, October 5th, municipalities that qualify as “Lower Risk Communities” based on DPH’s weekly dashboard may advance to Phase 3, Step 2 of the reopening plan.

What is a “Lower Risk Community”?

- A Lower Risk Community* has had an average daily incidence rate of 8 or fewer cases per 100,000 residents as recorded in each of the 3 most recent 14-day measurement periods in the DPH weekly dashboard – meaning they cannot have been a “red” community in any of the last 3 DPH weekly dashboards.
- Once a community has advanced to Step 2 as a Lower Risk Community, they will cease to be a Lower Risk Community (and must return to Step 1) if at any point the community is shown as “red” for 3 *consecutive DPH weekly dashboards* (i.e. going forward, a single week as “red” will not return them to Step 1).

Other Changes:

- Phase 1, 2, and 3 enterprises shall also begin operating under revised sector-specific protocols upon the commencement of Phase 3, Step 2 on 10/5. (see slides 3 – 6 for details)
- Revised capacity allowances for gatherings shall apply in Lower Risk Communities on 10/5 (see slide 2)

* The publication date of the three DPH weekly dashboards that will qualify municipalities as “Lower Risk Communities” as of Monday, October 5th are 9/16, 9/23, and 9/30



Updates to Gathering Order

Gatherings	Change From Current Order	Note
Sector-Specific Industries	No Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shall not be subject to the general gathering limitations if the enterprise is operating in compliance with applicable sector-specific COVID-19 safety rules and any applicable capacity limitations
Political Expression & Religious Activities	No Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gatherings for religious activities shall not be subject to the limitations provided, however, that such gatherings shall follow the COVID-19 safety rules and capacity limitations set forth in the Places of Worship sector-specific rules• Outdoor gatherings for the purpose of political expression shall also not be subject to the limitations. Indoor gatherings for the purposes of political expression shall follow the indoor capacity limitations.
All Indoor Gatherings	Remove % capacity metric, 25 person cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indoor gatherings are limited to 25 persons in a single enclosed, indoor space.
Outdoor Gatherings at Private Residences and Other Spaces	Remove % capacity metric, 50 person cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards and at any other venue or location are limited to a maximum of 50 people
Outdoor Gatherings at Event Venues and in Public Settings	Remove % capacity metric, 100 person cap in lower risk communities, 50 person cap in all other communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Lower-Risk Communities, gatherings at event venues and in public settings (event venues, clubs, parks, and other outdoor venues or spaces, public or private) are limited to a maximum of 100 persons in a single venue or space.• In communities that do not qualify as Lower-Risk Communities, gatherings at event venues and in public settings are limited to a maximum of 50 persons in a single venue or space.
Social Distancing	Continued emphasis on 6ft of social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 in the gathering except where participants are members of the same household.• A gathering shall violate this provision where, no matter the number of participants present, <u>conditions or activities at the gathering are such that it is not reasonably possible for all participants to maintain this degree of separation</u>



Updates to Phase 3, Step 1 Sector-Specific Guidance

Apply to All Communities

Sector	Change	Update
Car Washes	Delete Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow “Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed”
Pet Groomers	Delete Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow “Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed”
Golf	Remove Cart Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage golfers to walk or use a push cart. Golf carts and push carts must be cleaned and sanitized after each use
	Allow Flagsticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove reference from guidance
	Allow driving range and putting area at regular capacity with face coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“Modify driving range hitting areas and putting greens to ensure a minimum 6-feet of separation between players. If distancing cannot be maintained, players are required to wear face coverings.”
	Pools – refer to EEA guidance instead of Gyms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“Pools must follow the latest EEA guidance.”
	Clarify Tournaments and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Change “Tournaments and other events” to “Tournaments and other competitive events”
Indoor and Outdoor Events	Exclude staff and workers from capacity limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Occupancy counts in all cases must include all attendees, but may exclude staff, or other workers



Updates to Phase 3, Step 1 Sector-Specific Guidance

Apply to All Communities

Sector	Change	Update
Retail	Allow Food Courts to open	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All food service shall adhere to the sector specific protocols for restaurants
Indoor and Outdoor Theaters	Remove 25 person cap on Movie Theater capacity, increase to 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limit capacity to 50% of each individual theater or screening room's maximum permitted occupancy
	Exclude staff and workers from capacity limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Occupancy counts in all cases must include all attendees, but may exclude staff, or other workers
	Allow Concessions to be sold	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All food service shall adhere to the sector specific protocols for restaurants
Restaurants	Remove 24 hr close for cleaning, align with other guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shut down for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current CDC guidance.



Updates to Phase 3, Step 2 Sector-Specific Guidance

Apply Only to Lower Risk Communities

Sector	Change	Update
Driving and Flight Schools	Increase Capacity from 40% to 50% , increase 8/1000 sq ft. to 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% of the building's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy• Permit; up to 10 persons per 1000 sq feet
Libraries	Increase Capacity from 40% to 50% , increase 8/1000 sq ft. to 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% of the building's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy• Permit; up to 10 persons per 1000 sq feet
Fitness Centers and Gyms	Increase Capacity from 40% to 50% , increase 8/1000 sq ft. to 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% of the building's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy• Permit; up to 10 persons per 1000 sq feet
	Open showers, follow EEA guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual and communal shower areas may open but should be limited to 50% capacity. Social distancing of at least 6 feet is required for all individuals in shower and locker room areas
Museums	Increase Capacity from 40% to 50% , increase 8/1000 sq ft. to 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% of the building's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy• Permit; up to 10 persons per 1000 sq feet
Indoor Recreation, Arcades	Increase Capacity from 40% to 50% , increase 8/1000 sq ft. to 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% of the building's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy• Permit; up to 10 persons per 1000 sq feet
	Allow Step 2 Industries to Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indoor recreation permitted to open include roller skating rinks, trampolines, obstacle courses, and laser tag



Updates to Phase 3, Step 2 Sector-Specific Guidance

Apply Only to Lower Risk Communities

Sector	Change	Update
Retail	Loosen restrictions on fitting rooms, allow for all businesses with same cleaning protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fitting rooms may be open. Any clothing tried on by a customer must either be quarantined for 24 hours or thoroughly steam cleaned prior to returning to the floor
Indoor and Outdoor Events	Increase cap on outdoor events from 50 to 100, clarify for venue only (rather than events on private property which will retain a 50 person limit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each operator of an outdoor event venue must monitor attendee entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">25% of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder, and no more than 100 persons
Theaters and Performance Venues	Open Indoor Performance Venues at limited capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">50% of the venue's maximum permitted occupancy, but no more than 250 personsOccupancy counts must include customers and patrons, but may exclude performers and staff