

COVID-19 Updates Effective May 29, 2021

On May 17, 2021 the Baker-Polito Administration announced that the Commonwealth is on track to meet the goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by the first week of June. New cases have dropped by 89% since January 8. COVID hospitalizations are down 88% since January 1 and the positive test rate is down by 88% from peaking at 8.7% on January 1 to 1% on May 17. As a result, Governor Baker announced all remaining COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted effective May 29. The following changes will take effect on Saturday, May 29th:

- All industries will be permitted to re-open.
- All industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries, with the exception of the face covering requirements described below. All industries are encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.
- All gathering limits will be rescinded.
- The Face Covering Order will be rescinded, and a Face Covering Advisory will be issued, consistent with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's updated guidance. The Advisory will include the following:
 - o The advisory will recommend fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or social distance indoors or outdoors except for certain situations.
 - o Non-vaccinated individuals will be advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings.
 - o Face coverings will still be mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings.
 - o Face coverings will be required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.
- The State of Emergency will end on June 15, 2021.

The full announcement may be viewed on the mass.gov website at : [Baker-Polito Administration to Lift COVID Restrictions May 29, State to Meet Vaccination Goal by Beginning of June | Mass.gov](#) . The full Face Covering Advisory and other face covering information may be found on the mass.gov website at: [COVID-19 Mask Requirements | Mass.gov](#)

Additional COVID-19 related information may be found on the Bedford Health Department's website at [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) | bedfordma](#) and the Bedford COVID-19 Dashboard may be found at [Bedford Covid-19 Statistics \(google.com\)](#)

