MAPCHO Messaging for Residents week ending Friday 5/1

Stay at Home Advisory and Nonessential Business Closures Extended

Governor Baker’s emergency order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide “COVID19 Essential Services” to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public is extended until May 18th. This order also extends the existing ban on gatherings of more than 10 people until May 18th.

Governor Baker also announced that the Department of Public Health’s (DPH) stay-at-home advisory will remain in effect. Residents are strongly urged to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary person to person contact during this time period. Residents who are considered at high risk when exposed to COVID19 should limit social interactions with other people as much as possible.

As of April 30, Franklin County is third lowest in case counts in the Commonwealth, with only Dukes County and Nantucket having lower case counts. Your physical distancing efforts are making a difference in keeping yourself and your neighbors healthy! Please stay patient, and keep it up!


(Read more about essential business and services at: [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-services))

Getting Ready for Increased Contact Tracing in Our Communities

Contact tracing is one of the strategies that will allow us to be more mobile when the stay at home advisory lifts. Through contact tracing, public health nurses and other trained staff will reach out to individuals in the Commonwealth who have tested positive and people who have been in contact with anyone who tests positive for the coronavirus. When called for contact tracing, the case investigator will ask you for a list of all of the people you were within six feet of during the two days before you had symptoms. If you don’t have symptoms, they will ask about your activity during the two days before your diagnosis.

An increase in contact tracing is one of the strategies that will allow for lifting the current stay at home advisory. Contact tracing will increase, and that’s a good thing! However, an increase in contact tracing also makes it more likely that you could be contacted, and asked to recall your comings and goings in the days prior.

This will become a new normal for some time, so now, when we are all coming and going far less than usual, is a great time to practice being more mindful of our activities. Make note of the days, destinations, and timeframes of your comings and goings through a weekly log or list when you are doing your essential errands. Doing so is a good strategy to build the habit of greater mindfulness of your coming and goings in the future when you might be asked, for the sake of your own health as well as your neighbors, to offer public health nurses and contact tracers accurate information about who you may have come into contact with.

(Read more about the Commonwealth’s Community Tracing Collaborative at: [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-the-community-tracing-collaborative](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-the-community-tracing-collaborative))