

From: Flanagan, Michael (DLS) <michael.flanagan@state.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:42 PM
To: Phoebe Walker <Walker@frcog.org>
Subject: RE: grocery stores and food tables... need in writing please

Hello

This is a joint message from DPH and DLS. It will not be put on letterhead. You are free to share the message.

Sincere regards,
Michael Flanagan, Director
Department of Labor Standards
Office: 617-626-6958
www.mass.gov/dols

From: Phoebe Walker <Walker@frcog.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Flanagan, Michael (DLS) <michael.flanagan@mass.gov>
Subject: Re: grocery stores and food tables... need in writing please

Thanks very much! Will you be putting this on your letterhead and giving it to us as a PDF that we can share?

On Aug 13, 2020, at 11:48 AM, Flanagan, Michael (DLS) <michael.flanagan@state.ma.us> wrote:

Hello

This is the message that was provided to Wegmans:

Thank you for meeting with us and taking the time to explain the layout and show us the design of Wegman's facilities in Massachusetts. In light of the COVID safety standards, we have determined that the outdoor seating can be open for eating food purchased from the prepared food areas, but the indoor seating must be closed.

Due to the proximity of the food counters to the grocery area, the fact that the seating area is part of the same facility, and the open nature of the space, it has been determined that the facilities are primarily grocery stores. Indoor dining is not permitted within grocery stores as it would require the removal of a customer's face covering. The retail protocols state that retail stores must require face coverings for all workers and customers, except where unsafe due to medical condition or disability. Therefore, it would be a contradiction to this requirement to allow for patrons to remove their masks while indoors, which would of course be necessary to consume food.

Note that this requirement is only while patrons are indoors. Outdoor seating with appropriate distancing and frequent cleaning would be allowed.

We will forward this information to the health directors in Burlington and Medford for their awareness. We will also share this interpretation with local health departments generally as a decision regarding workplace COVID safety standards.

Sincere regards,
Michael Flanagan, Director
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