



The Office of  
Town Administrator  
April C. Steward

**TOWN OF BOYLSTON**  
**221 MAIN STREET**  
**BOYLSTON, MA 01505**

*Town Administrator's Report*  
*May 3, 2021*

1. **100 Shrewsbury Street LIP Application:** The LIP package was submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development for approvals early last week. If the project as proposed is approved, DHCD will issue a site eligibility letter so that the developer may apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Comprehensive Permit.
2. **Applicant Advisory Committee:** Rand-Whitney came before the Applicant Advisory Committee on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss their proposed project located at 160 Shrewsbury Street. They are ready to move on one 300,000 sqft building and will be coming before the appropriate committees soon. They are looking to begin site work after the new fiscal begins.
3. **Regional Vaccination Clinic:** The clinic in Westborough has been operating very well. Last week, It was reported that our vaccination site ranks at 95th percentile for minutes between appointment and vaccination time according to the state's Color Dashboard system. We have a 98.93% second dose scheduled rate. Those are fantastic numbers, and I would like to thank all who have been volunteering and helping at the clinic.
4. **Re-Opening Massachusetts:** The Baker-Polito administration distributed a press release last week announcing their plans for re-opening the state.
  - a. **April 30<sup>th</sup>** The Face Coverings order was relaxed. Face coverings will only be required outside in public when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times required by sector-specific guidance. Face coverings will still be required at all times in indoor public places. Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether indoors or outdoors and whether in a public space or at a private home, except for when eating or drinking.
  - b. **May 10<sup>th</sup>**
    - i. Large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks, will be permitted to operate at 50% capacity
    - ii. Amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks, will be permitted to operate at a 50% capacity
    - iii. Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts
    - iv. Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate- and high-risk sports.
    - v. Singing will also be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

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There is additional guidance available which I have provided for you in your packet.

**5. Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule:** Beginning April 30<sup>th</sup>, we have officially changed our pay date to be within six days of the end of the pay period. This is going to shift the date that the payables warrant needs to be signed. Starting on May 10<sup>th</sup> the payables warrant will need to be signed every other week, shifting the warrant signing from our current meeting schedule. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 3rd, 2021  
Monday, May 17th, 2021  
Monday, June 14th, 2021  
Monday, July 12th, 2021  
Monday, August 9th, 2021

To come into alignment with our new warrant schedule, I would like to see if the board would consider revising the meeting night to the following:

Monday, May 3rd, 2021  
Monday, May 24th, 2021  
Monday, June 7th, 2021\* (ATM)  
Monday, July 19th, 2021  
Monday, August 16th, 2021

The board would still need to come in and sign the payables warrant on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> which also happens to be Town Election night. After that night, the warrant would once again be ready for signatures on the same night the Board meetings are held. If summer plans have already been made and reorganizing the calendar proves to be too difficult, another option the board may consider is authorizing the Town Administrator to sign the warrants, possibly setting an end date of the end of August, and switching the meeting nights in September.

Submitted,

*April C. Steward*

April C. Steward  
Town Administrator

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MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

27

2021



## Baker-Polito administration announces plans for continued reopening

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The Baker-Polito administration this morning announced that Massachusetts will reopen additional outdoor activities effective May 10 and is planning for further reopening on May 29 and a full reopening on Aug. 1.

The face coverings order will be relaxed for some outdoor settings effective this Friday.

The administration said it is taking steps to reopen the Commonwealth's economy because public health metrics are continuing to trend in a positive direction. This includes drops in average daily COVID cases and hospitalizations.

Case rates have dropped by 20% since March 22, when the state loosened capacity restrictions and advanced to Step 1 of Phase 4 of the [four-phase reopening plan](#), the Department of Public Health reports. The positivity rate has dropped to the lowest levels since last summer.

Among the 24 states with more than 5 million people, Massachusetts ranks first for first vaccine doses and total doses administered per capita.

### **May 10 reopenings**

The following reopening guidelines will take effect on Monday, May 10:

- Large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks, currently open at 12% capacity under Step 1 of Phase 4, will be permitted to increase capacity to 25%.
- Some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries, including amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks, will be permitted to operate at a 50% capacity after submitting safety plans to the Department of Public Health.
- Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts after submitting safety plans to a local board of health or the DPH.
- Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate- and high-risk sports.
- Singing will also be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

### **May 29 reopenings**

The following changes are scheduled to take effect on May 29 (subject to public health and vaccination data):

- Gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.
- Subject to public health and vaccination data, additional Phase 4, Step 2 industries will be permitted to open including:
  - Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals, at 50% of their previous capacity and after submitting safety plans to the local board of health
  - Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries, subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90-minute limit, and no dance floors
- Subject to public health and vaccination data, the restaurant guidance will be updated to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase the maximum table size to 10.

### **August reopenings**

The following changes are scheduled to take effect on Aug. 1 (subject to public health and vaccination data):

- Remaining industries will be permitted to open, including dance clubs and nightclubs; saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs and other facilities; indoor water parks; and ball pits.
- All industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices.
- Gathering limits will be rescinded.

The administration said it may consider re-evaluating the Aug. 1 date depending on vaccine distribution and public health data. The DPH will also continue to issue guidance as needed, including maintaining the mask requirement indoors.

### **Face coverings**

Effective April 30, face coverings will only be required outside in public when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times required by sector-specific guidance.

Face coverings will still be required at all times in indoor public places. Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether indoors or outdoors and whether in a public space or at a private home, except for when eating or drinking.

At smaller gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required. The \$300 fine as an enforcement mechanism will be eliminated.

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