



The City of Fitchburg
Health Department
Food Inspection Division
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Tel: 978-829-1873

Board of Health
John Bogdasarian, M.D., Chairman
Ian Murray
Sandra Knipe, R.N., B.S.N

STEPHEN D. CURRY
HEALTH DIRECTOR

COVID-19 Guidance for Fitchburg Food and Beverage Establishments

Dear Fitchburg Food Establishment,

Governor Charlie Baker has issued an emergency "Order prohibiting the Gathering of More Than 25 People and On-Premise Consumption of Food or Drink".

FAQ

What does this order mean for Fitchburg Food and Beverage Businesses?

Effective on March 17, 2020, all food businesses may only provide food for take-out and by delivery only. This order is in effect until April 5, 2020 unless further extended. Please see the attached emergency order issued by Governor Baker for more information.

Can customers sit down in the restaurant while they wait for their takeout food?

It is discouraged that customers sit and wait for their food to maintain social distancing protocols. It is encouraged that customers call ahead to place their order. It is encouraged that food businesses remove the seating from dining areas to discourage customers from sitting in the establishment. Although discouraged, customers may sit down in a designated area while they wait for their takeout food but may not consume food and beverages on site.

Can private clubs and social clubs stay opened?

Private clubs and social clubs with bars must remain closed under this order.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) issued an advisory on March 15, 2020 which clarifies that private clubs and social clubs that serve alcohol are prohibited from selling alcohol to the general public until April 5, 2020 or until further notice. Please refer to the attached ABCC Advisory for more information.

Is there any information on Coronavirus for food businesses?

Please stay up to date for food industry guidance on the National Restaurant Association website by visiting:

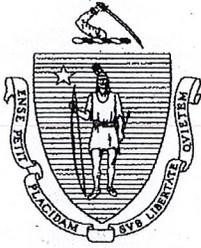
<https://restaurant.org/Covid19>

Please follow this link and go to the bottom of the section which states "Food Products" for guidance on employee illness policy and other FAQ:

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at 978-829-1873 or by e-mail to: sholinko@fitchburgma.gov

Thank you for your continued cooperation during this challenging time.



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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER PROHIBITING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 25 PEOPLE AND
ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF FOOD OR DRINK**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth. As of March 15, 2020, 164 cases of COVID-19 were reported by the Department of Public Health, with 10 of the 14 counties in the Commonwealth impacted;

WHEREAS, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies, including the cancellation of large events;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health is urging all residents of the Commonwealth to practice social distancing when outside of their homes; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including but not limited to authority over public assemblages in order to protect the health and safety of persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

Gatherings of over 25 people are prohibited throughout the Commonwealth. Gatherings subject to this Order include, without limitation, community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together 25 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theatre, gymnasium, fitness center, private club, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.

Any restaurant, bar, or establishment that offers food or drink shall not permit on-premises consumption of food or drink; provided that such establishments may continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery provided that they follow the social distancing protocols set forth in Department of Public Health guidance.

This Order shall not apply to any municipal legislative body or to the General Court or to the judiciary.

The Commissioner of Public Health is directed to issue guidance, subject to my approval, to implement the terms of this Order. The Department of Public Health, along with any board of health or authorized agent pursuant to G.L. c. 111, §30, shall enforce this Order and if necessary may do so with the assistance of State or municipal police. Violation of the terms of this Order or the guidance issued by the Commissioner of Public Health may result in penalties pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 631 of the Acts of 1950.

This Order is effective March 17, 2020 and shall remain in effect through April 5, 2020 unless further extended. On the effective date of this Order, the March 13, 2020 Order Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 250 People is hereby rescinded.

Given in Boston at 6:30 PM this 15th day of
March, two thousand and twenty



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
95 Fourth Street, Suite 3
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150*

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq.
Chairman

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY

On Sunday, March 15, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker issued an Order Prohibiting the Gathering of More Than 25 People and On-Premises Consumption of Food or Drink, barring all on-premises consumption of food and drink in Massachusetts in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The text of the Governor's Order can be found [HERE](#).

Effective beginning at 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all on-premises consumption licenses are prohibited from selling alcohol to the public until 11:59 p.m. on April 5, 2020.

This includes restaurants, bars, hotels, general-on-premises, clubs, war veterans' clubs, continuing care retirement communities, pub-brewers (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 12 and 19D), farmer-series pouring permits, and manufacturer's pouring permits (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 19(b), 19B(n), 19C(n), and 19E(o)). These establishments are also prohibited from serving any food or drinks for on-premises consumption; only takeout and delivery of food is permitted.

Please note that this Advisory does not apply to licenses for off-premises consumption, including grocery stores, pharmacies, package stores, direct wine shippers, and farmer-series licensees (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 15, 19B(g)(2), 19C(g)(7), 19E(g)(7), and 19F).

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law. All questions should be directed to Ralph Sacramone, RSacramone@tre.state.ma.us, 617-727-3040 ext 731.

-(Issued March 15, 2020)



U.S. Small Business
Administration

SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus

- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.
- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state's or territory's Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.
- Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities as well as updated on our website: [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster).
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.
- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.
- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.
- SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.
- For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- Visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster) for more information.