

What is the status of S.2680?

- Governor Baker signed into law Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020 - *An Act Relative to Municipal Governance During the COVID-19 Emergency*. To view the text of this important legislation, please [click here](#). To view a section-by-section summary, [click here](#).

How does the 25% capacity guidance relate to Municipal buildings?

- Cities and towns have discretion to determine what municipal services and program they consider critical, and therefore have considerable flexibility in applying the 25% capacity limitation to municipal buildings. If a municipality determines a municipal office or service is a "COVID-19 Essential Service" then that Office has until July 1, 2020 to comply with the 25% occupancy limitations. Further, a municipality may determine that a municipal office can exceed the maximum occupancy level if the municipality determines that it is in the interest of public health or safety consideration, or where strict compliance may interfere with the continue delivery of a critical service, as determined by the municipality.
- If a business does not know its maximum capacity, it may calculate the 25% using its typical occupancy as of March 1st. Additional protocols for buildings open to the public will be forthcoming.
- Additional protocols for buildings open to the public will be forthcoming. Generally, however, municipalities have considerable discretion as to how to operate their buildings open to the public, and should use that discretion to determine which guidance is most appropriate.
- To the extent that a municipal space is not listed in a particular phase or governed by Department of Labor Standards guidance, municipalities have discretion over when those places should open. We would, however, strongly urge municipalities to delay those places where older individuals are expected to congregate, like Councils on Aging and Senior Centers, because of the increased risk of COVID-19 to older individuals.

If the offices have six feet separation between employees do we have to limit to the 25% occupancy per office?

- Yes, the occupancy limitation applies even if social distancing is possible.

How do you calculate 25% in an office with a department head and administrative asst.?

- It should be calculated for the suite of offices.

Are municipalities obligated to provide PPE to employees?

- When a MA sector specific COVID standard requires PPE that goes beyond face coverings for COVID infection control (e.g. safety glasses, gowns, gloves, face shield, N95) then the Employer is required to pay for the PPE. Face coverings that are required in all places do not need to be provided by the employer

For the 1/12 budget submissions, "Clerk" is mentioned several times by DLS/DOR is its instructions - Is that always the Clerk of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk, or sometimes one and sometimes the other?

- Town Clerk

The Governor has a mandatory mask order in place. The Secretary of State, however, has informed us that we cannot deny voters the right to vote if they refuse to wear a mask at polling places.

- Municipalities should follow the Secretary of State's guidance regarding masks at polling places.

Where can we find information regarding CARES Act aid is specifically available to school systems?

- CARES aid for schools can be found [here](#).

Have there been any changes the number of signatures required for a local ballot initiative?

- The number of signatures required for ballot initiatives has not been changed. The Supreme Judicial court did issue a decision allowing for electronic signatures to be accepted. Any questions on this should be directed to the Secretary of State's Office.

In a community where the Town rents out a public building to a church for weekly use, do the rules governing churches apply or does the general non-gatherings of 10 or more people in an enclosed public space govern?

- The standard is for Places of Worship. It is not limited to a type of building.

When should we expect the guidelines from the Governor's Advisory Board for Recreation Summer Camps/Programs?

- [Guidance for Outdoor Adult Sports, Supervised Youth Sports Leagues, and Summer Sports Camps.](#)
- [Parks, Open Space and Outdoor Education Programs](#)

What different options do Municipalities have for determining parking capacity at beaches?

- This should be a determination of the beach manager based on the size of the beach and accommodation social distancing and 12ft of distance between towel areas. Managers should also consider whether closing parking spaces might contribute to more illegal parking.

Is there a way of assisting restaurants with zoning and alcohol sales licenses as they seek to expand their venues on their properties without taking too much time via public hearings, ABCC approvals, etc.?

- Guidance will be forthcoming

What is the guidance for out of state travel?

- Consistent with CDC guidance, Massachusetts residents are discouraged from traveling because it increases a person's chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19.
- The Commonwealth's advisory that people quarantine for 14 days when traveling to the Commonwealth from out-of-state applies regardless of how long you leave the state or the means by which you travel. However, workers residing in other states who commute to Massachusetts on a daily basis for work are not required to quarantine for 14 days. As a reminder, while individuals are strongly urged to comply with the self-quarantine advisory, it is not mandatory.

What authority do Select boards have with regards to approving outdoor dining?

- A city or town, through the mayor, select board, or chief executive, may establish a process for approving requests for restaurants to expand their outdoor table service. The city or town may approve such requests without having to get approval from local planning boards or zoning authorities, and do not have to comply with the usual notice requirement in section 11 of chapter 40A of the General Laws.