

COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

October 1, 2020:

The Town of Mansfield continues its community update on our website with our up to date information and important tips for the public as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more complete information, please see the town [coronavirus webpage](#).

- **As of today, please see the below chart that represents our communities COVID-19 relates cases:**

<i>Mansfield Covid-19 Workflow</i>	#	
Positive COVID-19 under isolation	3	(updated 9/30 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	198	
Total tested positive since beginning:	215	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	Green	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	14	(updated 9/30 08:00) Last Covid death in Mansfield 5/18/20

- **How to Select, Wear and Clean your Mask**

CDC recommends that you wear [masks](#) in public settings around people who don't live in your household and when you can't stay 6 feet away from others. Masks help stop the spread of COVID-19 to others.

- Wear masks with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19
- Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Masks should be worn by people two years and older
- Masks should NOT be worn by children younger than two, people who have trouble breathing, or people who cannot remove the mask without assistance
- Do **NOT** wear masks intended for healthcare workers, for example, N95 respirators
- CDC does not recommend the use of gaiters or face shields. Evaluation of these face covers is on-going but effectiveness is unknown at this time.

DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps

DO NOT choose masks that



Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl



Have exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape



Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks

Caution: Gaiters & Face Shields



Evaluation is on-going but effectiveness is unknown at this time



Evaluation is on-going but effectiveness is unknown at this time

Special Situations: Children



If you are able, find a mask that is made for children



If you can't find a mask made for children, check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin



Do NOT put on children younger than 2 years old

Special Situations: Glasses



If you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or one that has a nose wire to limit fogging

Do NOT wear a mask



Around your neck



On your forehead



Under your nose



Only on your nose



On your chin



Dangling from one ear



On your arm

- **Step II of Phase III for Lower Risk Communities begins October 5th**

Effective Monday, October 5th, lower risk communities will be permitted to move into Step II of Phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan. All other communities will remain in Phase III, Step I. Governor Charlie Baker also issued a revised gatherings order. Industry specific guidance and protocols for a range of Phase I, II, and III businesses will also be updated.

Phase III, Step II:

Lower risk communities are defined as cities and towns that have not been a "red" community in any of the last three weekly Department of Public Health (DPH) weekly reports. Currently, Mansfield is a green community.

Effective October 5, a limited number of sectors will be eligible to reopen, with restrictions, in Step II of Phase III for lower risk communities only:

- Indoor performance venues will be permitted to open with 50% capacity with a maximum of 250 people.
- Outdoor performance venue capacity will increase to 50% with a max of 250 people.
- For arcades and indoor and outdoor recreation businesses, additional Step II activities like trampolines, obstacle courses, roller rinks and laser tag will also be permitted to open and capacity will increase to 50%.
- Fitting rooms will be permitted to open in all types of retail stores.
- Gyms, museums, libraries and driving and flight schools will also be permitted to increase their capacity to 50%.

Read more: [Governor's COVID-19 Order #51](#)

Revised Gatherings Order:

- The limit for indoor gatherings remains at a maximum of 25 people for all communities.
- Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in private backyards will remain at a maximum of 50 people for all communities.
- Outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings will have a limit of 50 people in Step I communities, and a limit of 100 people in lower risk, Step II communities.

Read more: [Governor's COVID-19 Order #52](#)

- [Halloween During COVID-19](#)

Tips for a Safe and Healthy Halloween

As a reminder, the following COVID-19 prevention and mitigation standards apply to all activities in Massachusetts, including Halloween activities. Residents should adhere to each of the following:

- Wear a face mask or face covering. For more information on face masks and face coverings, please see the state's [Mask Up MA](#) webpage.
- Observe good hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of alcohol-based sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol. Carry hand sanitizer and use it often, especially after coming into contact with frequently touched surfaces and before eating candy.
- Refrain from touching your face.
- Stay home and refrain from Halloween activities, including handing out Halloween treats, if:
 - you feel unwell;
 - you have tested positive for COVID-19;
 - you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19; or
 - you have traveled to or from a state that is not classified as lower risk within the last 14 days. For more information on lower risk states, please see the state's COVID-19 [Travel Order](#) webpage.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet of physical distance from all other participants who are not members of the same household.

Halloween Activities

Residents and communities should follow the [Halloween activity guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to understand alternative ways to participate in Halloween that may limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. As a reminder, any Halloween activities are subject to the current [gathering size limits](#) as well as applicable [sector-specific workplace safety standards](#).

- **A Small Survey for Health, a Big Impact for you**

How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your life? The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is trying to better help people through the COVID-19 crisis by hearing about their experiences and challenges right now. By taking this survey, you will provide information that will directly affect your community. Along the way you'll also be provided resources that help connect you with things like **FOOD, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, and PARENTING RESOURCES**. Your answers are anonymous. The survey will ask questions about the following:

- Your experience protecting yourself from COVID-19
- If you had COVID-19, what your experience was like with symptoms and testing
- Your ability to access basic needs like medical care and essential supplies
- Your physical health and mental wellbeing
- How the COVID-19 crisis has impacted your housing, education, employment and income
- Basic questions about you, like your age, gender, race, and where you live (but we do not ask about sensitive information that can be used to identify you)

Survey Link: www.mass.gov/COVIDsurvey

This survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Anyone 14 or older who lives in Massachusetts can take the survey. If you have any questions about this survey, you may contact:

covid19survey@mass.gov. Frequently Asked Questions: [FAQ document](#)

This research will be reviewed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Institutional Review Board (MA-DPH IRB). If you wish to speak with someone from the MA-DPH IRB, you may contact them at DPH.IRB@mass.gov or by phone (617) 624-5647.