

COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

January 12, 2021:

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	162	(updated 1/12 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	815	
Total tested positive since beginning:	998	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	Red	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	21	Last Covid death in Mansfield 12/27/20

CASES ARE RISING.
ACT NOW!



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

- **New COVID-19 Variants**

Information about the characteristics of these variants is rapidly emerging. Scientists are working to learn more about how easily they might spread, whether they could cause more severe illness, and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect people against them. At this time, there is no evidence that these variants cause more severe illness or increased risk of death.

What we know

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus, a large family of viruses. Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surfaces. Scientists monitor changes in the virus, including changes to the spikes on the surface of the virus. These studies, including genetic analyses of the virus, are helping us understand how changes to the virus might affect how it spreads and what happens to people who are infected with it.

Multiple COVID-19 variants are circulating globally. In the United Kingdom (UK), a new variant has emerged with an unusually large number of mutations. This variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants. Currently, there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death. This variant was first detected in September 2020 and is now highly prevalent in London and southeast England. It has since been detected in numerous countries around the world, including the United States and Canada.

In South Africa, another variant has emerged independently of the variant detected in the UK. This variant, originally detected in early October, shares some mutations with the variant detected in the UK. There have been cases caused by this variant outside of South Africa. This variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants. Currently, there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death.

Another variant recently emerged in Nigeria. CDC also is monitoring this strain but, at this time, there is no evidence to indicate this variant is causing more severe illness or increased spread of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

What we do not know

Scientists are working to learn more about these variants, and more studies are needed to understand:

- How widely these new variants have spread
- How the new variants differ
- How the disease caused by these new variants differs from the disease caused by other variants that are currently circulating

What it means

Public health officials are studying these variants quickly to learn more to control their spread. They want to understand whether the variants:

- Spread more easily from person to person
- Cause milder or more severe disease in people
- Are detected by currently available viral tests

- Respond to medicines currently being used to treat people for COVID-19
- Change the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. There is no evidence that this is occurring, and most experts believe this is unlikely to occur because of the nature of the immune response to the virus.

What CDC is doing

CDC, in collaboration with other public health agencies, is monitoring the situation closely. CDC is working to detect and characterize emerging viral variants and expand its ability to look for COVID-19 and new variants. Furthermore, CDC has staff available on-the-ground support to investigate the characteristics of viral variants. CDC is collaborating with EPA to confirm that disinfectants on EPA's [List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) inactivate these variant viruses. As new information becomes available, CDC will provide updates.

- **Extension of Gathering and Capacity Limits**

Today, the Administration announced that the industry restrictions for capacity limits and reduced gathering limits that went into effect on Saturday, December 26th will now be extended for at least two more weeks to January 24th.

Read a summary of the restrictions [here](#).

Read the emergency order [here](#).

Capacity Limits: Under the current restrictions that are being extended today, most industries in Massachusetts remain subject to a 25% capacity limit:

- Restaurants (based on permitted seating capacity)
- Close Contact Personal Services
- Theaters and Performance Venues
- Casinos
- Office Spaces
- Places of Worship
- Retail Businesses
- Driving and Flight Schools
- Golf Facilities (for indoor spaces)
- Libraries
- Lodging (for common areas)
- Arcades and Indoor Recreation Businesses
- Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Museums, Cultural Facilities and Guided Tours
- Workers and staff will not count towards the occupancy count for restaurants, places of worship, close contact personal services, and retail businesses.

All other rules and restrictions in each sector-specific guidance will continue to remain in effect.

Gatherings Limit: The current gathering limits in place since December 26 are also being extended. Indoor gatherings will remain limited to 10 people. Outdoor gatherings will remain limited to 25 people outside. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces.



EXTENDED COVID-19 MEASURES

- **25% Capacity Limits Across Industries**
- **Lower Indoor + Outdoor Gathering Limits**

The image is a dark blue rectangular graphic. On the left side, there is a circular seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, featuring a Native American figure holding a bow and arrow, with a five-pointed star above. The seal is surrounded by the Latin text 'SIGILLUM REIPUBLICÆ MASSACHUSETTENSIS'. To the right of the seal, the text 'EXTENDED COVID-19 MEASURES' is written in yellow, uppercase letters. Below this text, there are two yellow chevron arrows pointing to the right, each followed by a line of white text. The first line reads '25% Capacity Limits Across Industries' and the second line reads 'Lower Indoor + Outdoor Gathering Limits'.