



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Department of Public Health**  
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**GUIDANCE REGARDING THE ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR PROHIBITING  
ASSEMBLAGES OF MORE 25 PEOPLE**

**ISSUED MARCH 15, 2020**

On March 15, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, issued an order (hereinafter, the Order) prohibiting gatherings of over 25 people.

1. Gatherings subject to this Order include, but are not limited to: 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.
2. The Order does not apply to normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers, polling locations, grocery or retail stores, pharmacies, or other spaces where 25 or more persons may be in transit.
3. 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 social distancing protocols that allow individual to stay 6 feet apart.
4. The Order does not apply to typical office environments, government buildings, or factories where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another.
5. The Order does not apply to higher education or K-12 schools when classes are in session; provided, that assemblies or classes of more than 25 people are prohibited.
6. The Order does not apply to events that exclude spectators; provided, however, that members of the media may attend the event. Athletic and other events do not need to be cancelled or postponed if

spectators and other attendees are excluded. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall issue guidance that shall govern scholastic athletic events.

7. This guidance is effective March 17, 2020 and shall remain in full force and effect through April 5, 2020 unless further extended.
8. Regardless of whether an event or gathering falls within the scope of the Order, all persons are urged to maintain social distancing (approximately six feet away from other people) whenever possible and to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette.
9. Regardless of whether an event or gathering falls within the scope of the Order, all higher risk individuals should avoid large gatherings. Higher risk individuals include older adults, anyone with underlying health conditions, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, anyone with weakened immune systems, and anyone who is pregnant.



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Monica Bharel, MD, MPH  
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of  
Public Health

March 15, 2020