



April 28, 2021
Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea
Manchester Board of Health
COVID-19 Community Update

Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 UPDATE

Manchester Total Positive Case Number (to date) as of Thursday, April 28, 2021: 231

Active Cases: 6

(Last week's COVID-19 numbers reported on 4/22/21: Total cases – 222, Active cases –1)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has instructed all local boards of health *with populations less than 10,000* to only report total positive cases: “In order to protect privacy and confidentiality of individuals who test positive for COVID-19. We understand that many boards of health find value in sharing community-specific data as part of a risk communication plan and to keep the public informed about the scope of the local public health effort. If you choose to share numbers of cases for these purposes, please do so with the highest regard for privacy and confidentiality by not including any information other than the case count.”

Each **Wednesday** the Board of Health will release an update on COVID-19 in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

Violations as of 4/28/21: The Board of Health and Manchester Police have not issued any new violations in the past week.

BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE

All MA residents age 16+ are now eligible to receive the COVID vaccine.

(Residents aged 16-18 are only eligible for the *Pfizer Vaccine* at this time. Learn more [here](#).)

NEW! Gloucester Vaccine Clinic: The Gloucester Board of Health is hosting a vaccine clinic on Friday, April 30 and Thursday, May 6 at the Rose Baker Senior Center in Gloucester. Manchester residents 18+ are invited to attend. Learn how to sign up [here](#).

NEW! On April 27 Governor Baker announced that MA will begin to move into Phase IV Step 2 of reopening. Learn more [here](#).

COVID Vaccine: [COVID Vaccine Locations](#) Vaccine FAQ: [Vaccine FAQ](#) MA Vaccine Pre-Registration: [Vaccinesignup.mass.gov](#)

COVID Testing: [COVID-19 Testing Site Locator](#), [Stop the Spread Sites](#)

Positive COVID Test: [Quarantine Instructions](#)

If you have further questions for the Board of Health, please contact Ellen Lufkin at lufkine@manchester.ma.us.



NEW COMMUNITY UPDATES

- **NEW! Face Covering Order:** Effective **April 30**, the Face Coverings Order will be relaxed for some outdoor settings but required when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times required by sector-specific guidance.
- **NEW! Capacity Increase:** Effective **May 10**, large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks currently open as part of Phase 4, Step 1 at 12% will be permitted to increase capacity to 25%.
- **NEW! Gathering Limits:** Effective **May 29** subject to public health and vaccination data, gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.
- **NEW! Lifting of All Industry Restrictions:** Effective **August 1** All industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices. The gathering limit will be rescinded.
- **NEW! Planning Board Public Forum:** The Planning Board will host a public forum to discuss proposed zoning changes on Thursday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. [Meeting Details](#)
- **NEW! Support Manchester Businesses:** Help our businesses by shopping and dining at the Manchester Madness Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, May 1 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **NEW! Fourth Quarter Property Tax:** Tax bills are due on Monday, May 3. Please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 978-526-2030 with questions.
- **NEW! Town Election:** The Manchester election will take place on Tuesday, May 18 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Manchester Essex Regional High School. View the sample ballot and more [here](#).

ONGOING COMMUNITY GUIDANCE

- MA Phase 4 Step 1 of Reopening: On Monday, March 22, MA transitioned to a new reopening phase. Read the details of this phase [here](#).
- Vaccinations for Manchester Homebound Residents: The Manchester Board of Health is participating in the MA Homebound Covid-19 Vaccination Program. This program handles all phases of service delivery including screening, registration, at home vaccination, and insurance billing. Please call 1-833-983-0485 to schedule an appointment. Learn more [here](#).
- Hydrant Flushing: DPW began hydrant flushing on April 26. Flushing will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays over the course of six weeks. During this time, if you experience cloudy or brown water, run a cold tap from the lowest faucet or spigot in your home until clear.
- Beach Stickers: 2021 Beach Stickers are on sale online or via mail. Please click [here](#) for complete details and instructions. 2020 Parking Stickers are valid through May 31, 2021. *New rule for 2021! Stickers must be placed inside the front, driver side windshield in the upper left-hand corner.*
- Tax Deadline Extension: The federal and state income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021.



ONGOING COMMUNITY GUIDANCE

- Travel Advisory: A new travel advisory replaced the travel order on Monday, March 22. All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are advised to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival. A list of exemptions can be found here: [Travel Advisory](#)
- July 4th Parade Rescheduled: Due to current COVID guidance, the Annual July 4th Parade will be postponed to September 25. The theme of the parade will be Manchester's 375th Anniversary. Fireworks on Singing Beach will be held in July 2022. Stay tuned for other festive activities being planned.
- Workplace and Youth Sports Guidance: Effective March 22, new guidelines for workplace and youth sports will be in place to correspond with the Phase 4 Step 1 reopening. [Workplace and Youth Sports](#)
- Town Hall is Closed to the Public: Town Hall will be closed to the public until further notice. Staff will be available during normal business hours via appointment, phone or email. [Staff Directory](#)
- Town Compost Site is Open: The Town Compost Site is open. Compost Site hours are Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. [Compost Site Information](#)
- MBTS Summer Jobs: The Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting applications for the following positions: Assistant Summer Playground Director, Summer Playground Counselors, Tennis Director and Tennis Instructors - Apply [here](#).
- Gathering Size Restriction: The current gathering order effective March 22 allows up to *10 indoors and 25 outdoors* at private residences. [Gathering Order](#)
- Indoor and Outdoor Public Event Guidance: [March 2021 Event Guidance](#)
- Annual Town Meeting Postponed: Due to COVID-19, the Board of Selectmen voted to postpone the Annual Town Meeting until Monday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m. on the MERSD athletic field.
- Volunteer with MA Medical Reserve Corps: The MA Medical Reserve Corp is looking for volunteers at the local level, both medical and non-medical. Click [here](#) to register.
- Face Covering Order for MA: All persons over the age of 5 are required to wear a face covering in all public spaces, indoor and outdoor, regardless of distance. (effective 11/6/20) [Face Covering Order](#)
- Business & Workplace Complaints: Residents or employees who wish to take steps to report a business or workplace that is non compliant with reopening standards and protocols may contact: Department of Labor Standards (DLS) safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov, COVID-19 Hotline 211 or the Manchester Board of Health [BOH Complaint Form](#)
- The Manchester Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT), in collaboration with Action, Inc., a Gloucester-based human and social services agency, is offering short-term rental housing and mortgage payment assistance to income eligible Manchester residents in response to job and income loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact Action, Inc. at 978-282-1000 or live chat at [Actioninc.org](https://www.actioninc.org) for assistance.
- The Manchester Police Department and Council on Aging are assisting residents who need delivery of local groceries and prescriptions. To make a request please contact the Police Department at (978)526-1212.



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA COMMUNICATION PLAN

All COVID-19 related information will continue to be conveyed to the public through the Town website (www.manchester.ma.us), email alerts, Town social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and the Manchester Cricket. Residents are encouraged to follow at least one of these mediums to stay informed.

Reverse 911 calls ([Code Red](#)) will be used when necessary.

The Board of Health and Board of Selectmen will update the public daily (as needed) when new guidelines are released from the State or when important changes occur to Manchester-by-the-Sea operations and services.

Would you like to receive important Town notices, such as this, via email? Subscribe to email alerts at [Notify Me](#). Under Alert Center choose "MBTS Alerts" (for time sensitive and emergency information) and under News Flash choose "MBTS News Updates" (for important MBTS events and updates).

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