

June 22, 2020 | COVID-19, Employment & Employee Benefits, Insights

Massachusetts Enters Second Step of Phase 2 Reopening Plan

By: Rich May

Step 2 of Phase 2 of the Commonwealth's four-phase reopening plan, "["Reopening Massachusetts,"](#)" begins today, June 22, 2020. This step ushers in the following key changes, among others:

Open Spaces

Businesses and other organizations may increase the occupancy within their office space to no more than: 50 percent of (a) the maximum occupancy level specified in any certificate of occupancy or similar permit, or as provided for under the state building code; or (b) the business or organization's typical occupancy as of March 1, 2020. The prior limit was 25%. Office spaces continue to be subject to preexisting [safety requirements](#).



Indoor Dining at Restaurants

Indoor dining at Massachusetts' [restaurants may resume, subject to compliance with official safety standards](#), meaning the restaurants must, among other things:

- Maintain a 6-foot distance between tables and all other tables any high foot traffic areas, unless separated by a protective barrier;
- Limit parties to 6 people per table;
- Prohibit seating at the bar, although bar areas may be re-configured to accommodate compliant table seating;
- Prohibit eat-in service to standing customers – all customers must be seated; and
- Utilize only single-use, displayed, or electronic menus.

Close Contact Personal Services

Various businesses providing "close contact personal services" may reopen, subject to

Related Services

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compliance with official safety standards. Close contact personal services include hair removal, massage and other body work therapy and treatment, skin care, nail care, hair replacement and other non-removal services, makeup application, personal training (1-on-1 or 2 clients from same household, appointment only), tanning, and tattoo and body piercing services. Close contact personal services businesses must adhere to the following safety standards, among others:

- Require customers to make an advance appointment;
- Close waiting areas and ask customers to wait outside or in cars until their appointment;
- Maintain a log of workers and customers to support potential contact tracing;
- Arrange work stations and install visual markers to ensure and encourage social distancing of 6 feet or more;
- Require face coverings for all customers and workers, unless an individual is unable to do so due to a medical condition or disability;
- Require workers to wear gloves, gowns or smocks, and glasses or goggles; and
- Post visible signage throughout to remind customers and workers of hygiene and safety protocols.

Retail Dressing Rooms

Step 2 of Phase 2 also allows for the reopening of retail dressing rooms, by appointment only, provided the retailers comply with [industry-specific requirements](#).

Rich May continues to monitor the progress of Massachusetts' actions with respect to the COVID-19 outbreak, the related economic crisis, and the phased reopening of the Commonwealth's economy and will provide additional updates as they become available.

Disclaimer: This summary is provided for educational and informational purposes only and is not legal advice. Any specific questions about these topics should be directed to attorneys [Jeffrey Loeb](#), [Frank Gaeta](#), [J. Allen Holland](#), or [Matthew Sweet](#).