

Board of Health Press Release - 5/11/2020

On behalf of the Stoneham Board of Health, we'd like to thank the Stoneham Volunteer Team, the Police, Fire, School and Facilities departments, and the residents of Stoneham on a successful dispensing event this past Saturday at Stoneham High School. 5000 masks and pamphlets were distributed to residents in just under 2 hours. We ask that all residents who did not receive a mask to understand that there is a limited supply we are able to dispense at this time, along with heavily disrupted domestic and international supply lines. The Board of Health is currently in discussion regarding future events and a pick-up/delivery program being rolled out in the near future. We ask that all residents remain patient and understanding of the current situation.

On 5/11/2020, Governor Baker issued some general outlines regarding the re-opening of businesses beginning on May 18th. This re-opening will consist of 4 phases to be rolled out as further public health metrics are analyzed. Some universal guidelines to businesses include the following:

"For Social Distancing:

All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least 6 feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces.

Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing.

Provide signage for safe social distancing.

Require face coverings or masks for all employees.

For Hygiene:

Provide hand-washing capabilities throughout the workplace.

Ensure frequent hand-washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so.

Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs and restrooms throughout work site.

For Staffing and Operations:

Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols.

Employees who are displaying COVID-19-like symptoms do not report to work.

Establish a plan for employees getting ill from COVID-19 at work and a return-to-work plan.

For Cleaning and Disinfecting:

Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to the business.

When an active employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed.

Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to said workplace."

Lastly, the CDC and MDPH have indicated that large numbers of asymptomatic cases, as well as antibody carriers, are now being reported to local health departments across the state, and as such, the Board of Health will no longer be posting active case counts, approximate or otherwise. 37% of reported cases in the Town of Stoneham have been yielded from testing efforts at Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes. Release protocols will remain the same for all confirmed positives.

Please be sure to sign up for alerts by clicking the flashing red circle at the top left of the page.