



COVID-19 ADVISORY



Monday, April 6, 2020

GUIDANCE FROM MAYOR WALSH AND BID UPDATED RESOURCES

As we continue to monitor the situation in Downtown Boston, we are sharing [the latest advisory](#) from **Mayor Walsh**. The bottom line is that we join in the advisory and urge you to stay home and, if you must go out in public, follow the guidance provided by the City, below.

We are still at the beginning of what is estimated to be a 2-to-3 week surge in COVID-19 cases that will be very difficult for us as a city. But we join with the Mayor in the confidence that we can rise to the occasion--if we all act responsibly and do the right thing.

New local data shows that social distancing in the next two weeks is critical to flattening the curve and saving lives. For that reason, the City of Boston has announced *new, stronger guidelines* to help us do that. These go into effect today, April 6th, and run through May 4th.

- **The City of Boston is asking everyone to wear a face covering whenever they leave their home.** Up to 25% of people who are infected are not showing symptoms, so the more people wear coverings, the more effective this strategy will be. The covering can be a scarf, bandana, or other type of cloth that covers your mouth and nose and allows you to breathe comfortably.
- **The City of Boston is strengthening the state's Stay-At-Home advisory by adding a recommended curfew between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., to be in effect until May 4th.** It applies to everyone except essential workers. The Mayor is urging everyone to be more effective in their social distancing while at grocery stores and pharmacies. People should not enter a store in a group; you should get what you need and leave, with no aimless browsing; and you should be conscientious of other patrons by taking necessary steps to remain at least 6 feet from other people at all times.
- **Starting this week, City Hall will only be open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** In addition, everyone entering the building will be subject to screening for COVID-19 symptoms, including an elevated temperature. Residents are reminded that they should only come to City Hall if it is absolutely necessary, and if the service they need is not available online or over the phone, and that they need to call ahead to make an appointment before visiting City Hall. City

Hall will be closed to the public this coming Friday, April 10th, in observance of Good Friday.

- **The pause on non-essential construction work remains in place in the City of Boston.** Developers and general contractors who are exempt from this order are urged by the City of Boston to use common sense and voluntarily shut-down their work if possible.
- **The City of Boston is closing sports facilities at all City parks, including basketball, tennis, and street hockey courts.** Signs have been posted in all parks and playgrounds, and all equipment will be locked-up or disabled. No group activities should take place anywhere, including fitness classes in open spaces. People will still have access to the open spaces where they can walk, run, or get fresh air by themselves while practicing social distancing. Police officers are empowered to disperse gatherings under the state advisory; they can order people to vacate closed sections of parks; and they will issue violations if necessary.

All of these measures will help us further slow the spread of the virus, keep more people healthy, and ensure that our healthcare system does not become overwhelmed.

You can find more information by visiting [Boston.gov/coronavirus](https://www.boston.gov/coronavirus), by calling the City's 24-hour hotline at **3-1-1**, or by texting BOSCOVID to 9-9-4-1-1 to receive text alerts on a regular basis. These alerts are available in 6 languages.

We have developed a special webpage dedicated to [a curated list of COVID-19 resources](#) that is geared towards commercial property owners, small business owners, owners and renters of residential property, as well as individuals in the nonprofit and arts sectors. This guide is updated regularly.

Finally, the Downtown Boston BID has [a webpage of restaurants and businesses that are open](#) and following the safety protocols. This list is updated on a daily basis, but we do advise you to call ahead or to visit restaurants' and businesses' websites to make yourself aware of any changes in this very fluid situation.

As promised, we will continue to monitor this situation and keep you apprised. In the meantime, be safe and please strive to follow all of the health & safety protocols that have been instituted. Our thoughts are with you and your families.

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Additional Resources - bookmark & save

[Boston Public Health Commission](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[Mass.gov Coronavirus Update](#)
[City of Boston COVID-19 Website](#)

