



COVID-19 ADVISORY

Monday, March 23, 2020

GOVERNOR ISSUES STAY-AT-HOME ADVISORY

Governor Baker issued an order today requiring all non-essential businesses to close at noon on Tuesday, March 24th, through noon on Tuesday, April 7th. For more information and to review the list of essential services, please [click here](#).

According to the *Boston Globe*, the following business categories are permitted to stay open:

- gas stations;
- grocery stores and businesses that support them (e.g., shippers & wholesalers);
- mechanics;
- medical & pharmaceutical companies;
- medical facilities;
- medical marijuana dispensaries (recreational marijuana shops are ordered to close)
- online/e-commerce;
- package (liquor) stores
- pharmacies;
- and restaurants (so long as they practice social distancing, they can still offer takeout/delivery).

The stay-at-home order does not include a prohibition on travel. So trains, buses, and subways will continue to run, and roads, bridges, and tunnels will stay open. Residents can still take a walk or go to the park, as long as social distancing is adhered to (i.e., refrain from playing any pick-up basketball games and similar activities involving close contact).

CONSTRUCTION SITES CLOSED

As a reminder, all construction sites in the City of Boston are closed and must be secured as of today. This suspension also includes any projects involving street repairs, with the exception of emergency utility work.

“RESTAURANT STRONG FUND” TO SUPPORT EMPLOYEES

DISPLACED THROUGH COVID-19 RESTAURANT CLOSURES

The **Massachusetts Restaurant Association** is partnering with **Samuel Adams'** and **The Greg Hill Foundation's** “**Restaurant Strong Fund**” to directly support displaced full-time, tipped hourly employees with grants of \$1,000 to assist with closures brought on by COVID-19. The foundation has already raised over \$350,000 and is currently accepting applications for relief. As of Friday, March 20th, the fund cut its first round of fifty-two checks of \$1,000 each to qualified employees.

To learn more about the “Restaurant Strong Fund” and to access its donation page--including the grant application--please [visit here](#). Any level of contribution helps.

RALLY FOR RESTAURANTS

Your favorite downtown restaurants are suffering as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis. Sales are down across the country and jobs are at risk. Join the [Rally for Restaurants](#) movement today, buy a gift card, and challenge your friends to do the same. Give yourself something to look forward to while giving small business owners a fighting chance.

MBTA SCHEDULE REVISIONS

In response to coordinated efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, the MBTA has implemented many alterations. Systemwide service changes have been made to accommodate for decreased ridership and to protect MBTA frontline employees, while still enabling travel for essential workers, such as hospital staff and emergency responders. Please note the following:

- As of this past Saturday, March 21st, MBTA riders should be boarding via the rear doors of buses and street-level trolley stops. Seniors and people with disabilities can still board at the front door if needed.
- Stations and vehicles are being cleaned and sanitized with increased frequency.
- Service levels have been adjusted to accommodate ridership levels on each line.

These changes are being made based on guidance from public health professionals and have been developed according to several criteria that seek to protect the health and safety of MBTA employees and customers, while factoring in recent reductions in ridership. Acknowledging guidance that recommends that people avoid large crowds, the MBTA will operate at levels that support social distancing.

A comprehensive list of MBTA schedule changes stemming from the outbreak can be found at [mbta.com/coronavirus](https://www.mbta.com/coronavirus).

PARKING IN DOWNTOWN BOSTON

Given the changes to the MBTA schedule, some travelers may find that they need to drive into downtown instead of using mass transit. In such instances we are recommending our area parking facilities. Here is [a link to a full listing](#) of garages that offer easy access to Downtown Boston.

SOCIAL SAFETY NET

The emerging priorities of the [Boston Resiliency Fund](#) are to provide food for children and seniors, technology for remote learning for students, and support to first responders and healthcare workers in the City of Boston.

THE BID AT WORK

As mentioned in a previous update, the **Downtown Boston BID Ambassador Program** is still operational and maintaining its traditional emphasis on cleaning, observations, and outreach to our homeless population and social service agencies. Its communications center continues to coordinate operations 24/7, and remains available at its regular number, **617-261-0066**. Please do not hesitate to call this number.

In addition, safety notifications and interactions with all City and State agencies

continue. We are conducting daily check-ins with the **Boston Police Department's Area A-1** downtown precinct, the **MBTA**, and others, including communications with the **Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS)**, the **Public Works Department (PWD)**, **Boston Transportation Department (BTD)**, and others. We are also monitoring Federal and State advisories and paying close attention to the daily **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)** advisories.

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.

Rosemarie E. Sansone

President and CEO

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Additional Resources - bookmark & save

[Boston Public Health Commission](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[Mass.gov Coronavirus Update](#)

Downtown Boston BID | [Website](#)

