



# Licensing Board for the City of Boston

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*Commissioners:*

*Kathleen M. Joyce, Chairman*

*Keeana S. Saxon*

*Liam P. Curran*

*Executive Secretary:*

*Lesley Delaney Hawkins*

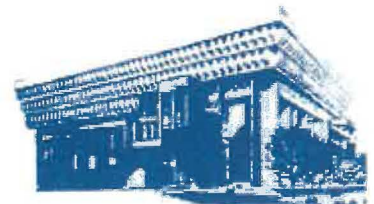
## **THE LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON'S (THE "BOARD") ADVISORY REGARDING THE STATEWIDE RESTRICTION ON GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY (250) INDIVIDUALS**

Issued: March 13, 2020

As you may be aware, effective today, March 13, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker issued an order (the "Order") attached hereto prohibiting gatherings of more than two hundred and fifty (250) individuals due to the ongoing public health concerns related to the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Per the Order, "[g]atherings subject to this Order include, but are not limited to: community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together 250 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theatre, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space." The Order excludes restaurants "provided that they should, when possible, encourage social distancing."

**With respect to Licensees in the City of Boston, it is the Board's position that restaurants are Licensees in which the majority of patrons are seated for dining purposes. Further, it is the Board's position that the Order applies to nightclubs, concert venues, and other entertainment venues. Any Licensee which is a nightclub, concert venue, or other entertainment venue must limit the total capacity in the licensed premise (the "License Premise") at any given time, including employees, to two hundred and fifty (250) individuals or less. Any Licensee that has both dining and entertainment functions must adhere to the Order in the area of the Licensed Premise which provides entertainment. The Board urges Licensees to use common sense and consider what is in the best interests of the health and safety of both patrons and employees.**



The Board understands the economic challenges that Licensees are facing, not only in the City of Boston but throughout the Commonwealth, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Public safety and the health of our residents is of the utmost importance to the Board. The Board requires that all Licensees adhere to the Order and will be working with the Boston Police Department to ensure compliance. At this time, there has been no specified end date regarding the Order. The Board will continue to keep all Licensees updated as information regarding this extremely fluid situation becomes available.

Any questions, including whether or not a specific Licensee is subject to the Order, should be directed to the Board's Executive Secretary, Lesley Delaney Hawkins, Esq., who can be reached at (617) 635-4170 or [Lesley.hawkins@boston.gov](mailto:Lesley.hawkins@boston.gov).

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Lesley Hawkins', written over the printed name.

Lesley Delaney Hawkins, Esq.  
Executive Secretary & General Counsel



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Department of Public Health**  
**250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619**

**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
Governor

**KARYN E. POLITO**  
Lieutenant Governor

**MARYLOU SUDDERS**  
Secretary

**MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH**  
Commissioner

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**GUIDANCE REGARDING THE ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR PROHIBITING  
ASSEMBLAGES OF MORE 250 PEOPLE**

**ISSUED MARCH 13, 2020**

On March 13, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, issued an order (hereinafter, the Order) prohibiting gatherings of over 250 people.

1. Gatherings subject to this Order include, but are not limited to: community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, sporting events with spectators, concerts, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, and any similar event or activity that brings together 250 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time in a venue such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theatre, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space.
2. The Order does not apply to normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers, polling locations, grocery or retail stores, or other spaces where 250 or more persons may be in transit.
3. The Order does not apply to restaurants, provided that they should, when possible, encourage social distancing.
4. The Order does not apply to typical office environments, government buildings, or factories where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another.
5. The Order does not apply to higher education or K-12 schools when classes are in session; provided, that assemblies or classes of more than 250 people are prohibited.
6. The Order does not apply to events that exclude spectators; provided, however, that members of the media may attend the event. Athletic and other events do not need to be cancelled or postponed if spectators and other attendees are excluded. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall issue guidance that shall govern scholastic athletic events.

7. This guidance shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until the State of Emergency declared by the Governor no longer exists or the Order is rescinded, whichever is earlier.
8. Regardless of whether an event or gathering falls within the scope of the Order, all persons are urged to maintain social distancing (approximately six feet away from other people) whenever possible and to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette.
9. Regardless of whether an event or gathering falls within the scope of the Order, all higher risk individuals should avoid large gatherings. Higher risk individuals include older adults, anyone with underlying health conditions, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, anyone with weakened immune systems, and anyone who is pregnant.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MBH', is written over a horizontal line.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH  
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of  
Public Health

March 13, 2020