

# City of Easthampton Situation Report

January 8, 2021

## Extension of COVID-19 Restrictions

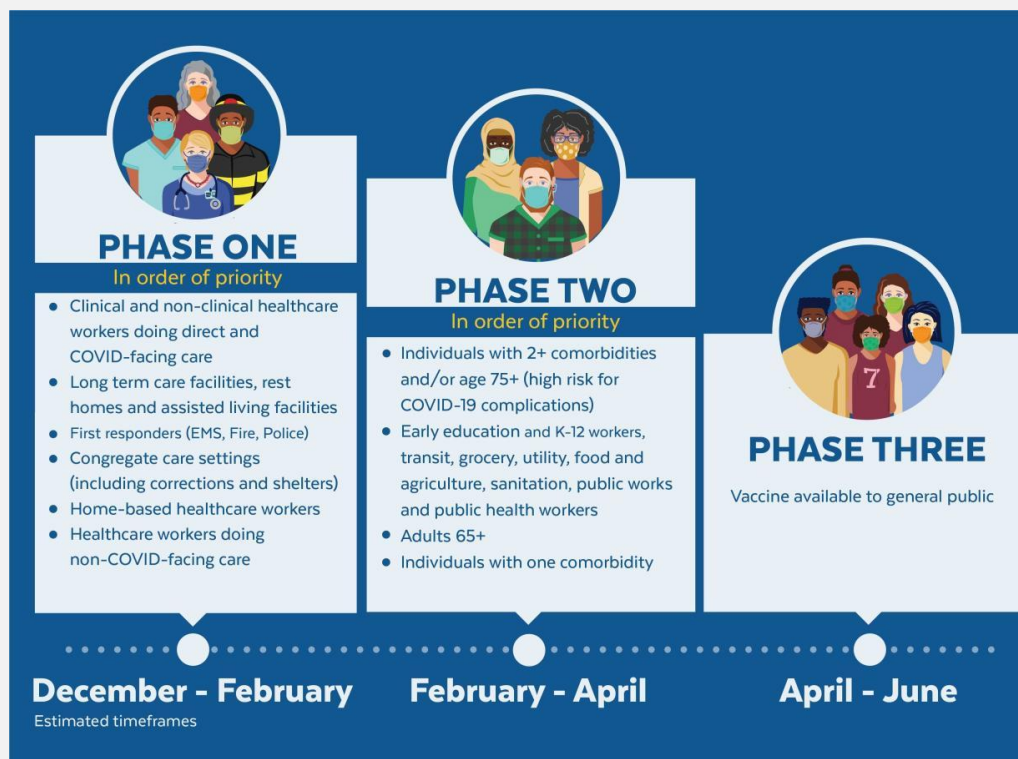
The Baker-Polito Administration has announced the extension of further restrictions to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth.

Industry restrictions for capacity limits and reduced gathering limits went into effect on Saturday, December 26th, and will now be extended for at least two more weeks to January 24th.

Under the current restrictions that are being extended today, most industries in Massachusetts remain subject to a 25% capacity limit. The breakdown for each industry can be found on the official Massachusetts website [HERE](#).

**Gatherings Limit:** The current gathering limits in place since December 26 are also being extended. Indoor gatherings will remain limited to 10 people. Outdoor gatherings will remain limited to 25 people outside. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Plan



The Baker-Polito Administration has announced a phased approach to distributing the COVID-19 vaccine. Right now, the Commonwealth is in Phase I of this plan. Phase I is broken down into categories based on priority.

Please see the graphic or click [HERE](#) for more information on this schedule.

## Grant Opportunities for Small Businesses

---

**Grants up to \$10,000 are still available for Easthampton small businesses with 5 or fewer employees.** Valley Community Development Corporation will act as Program Administrator for the application and selection process. Applications accepted until funds are exhausted. More information on their website: <https://www.valleycdc.com/small-business-assistance/covid-small-business-relief-program/>.

**New state-wide grant program for business in the industries most hard-hit during the pandemic:** restaurants, bars, and caterers; indoor recreation and entertainment establishments; gyms and fitness centers; event-support professionals (photographers, videographers, etc.); personal services; and retail. Grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for employee wage and benefit costs, space-related costs, and debt-service obligations. Online application opens Thursday, Dec. 31, and closes Friday, Jan. 15. Awards are expected to be announced in early February. More details on how to apply, as well as eligibility requirements, are available at [www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org](http://www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org).

### Fuel Assistance

---

Call for assistance: 413-527-6151

The Massachusetts Fuel Assistance Program helps families in need by paying a portion of their heating bills from Nov.1st to April 30th. Renters and homeowners who pay their own heat and renters who heat is included in their rent are eligible. Eligibility is based on the number of people in your household and combined gross (before taxes) income of all persons residing in the household.

Income Guidelines/Limit:

1-Person household = \$39,015

2 Person household=\$51,137

3 Person household=\$63,169

4 Person household=\$75,201

### Easthampton WinterFest

---

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Easthampton WinterFest will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2021.

Due to COVID-19, organizing WinterFest will be a bit different for 2021. WinterFest has been the main source of funds needed to support the health of Nashawannuck Pond.

Stay tuned and join the Nashawannuck Pond mailing list to be among the first to learn how they plan on moving forward.

All information can be found at <https://www.nashawannuckpond.org/winterfest.html>.

## #StateWithoutStigMA Campaign

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has launched a new phase of the #StateWithoutStigMA public information campaign aimed at reducing the stigma of substance addiction that prevents people with substance use disorders from seeking treatment. The campaign launches at a time when the state is experiencing a slight rise in overdose deaths as it continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Click on the link to read the full press release: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-launches-new-phase-of-statewithoutstigma-campaign-to-remove>

### City Meeting Calendar Week of January 11<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup>

Monday, January 11, 2021	Tuesday, January 12, 2021	Wednesday, January 13, 2021	Thursday, January 14, 2021
<b>Conservation Commission – 6:00pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	<b>School Building Committee – 4:30pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	<b>Cultural District Subcommittee – 9:00am</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	<b>City Council – Property Subcommittee</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>
<b>Housing Authority – 6:00pm</b> <b>PHONE: 1-515-604-9094</b> <b>ACCESS CODE: 748720011#</b>	<b>WBMS Council – 4:30pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	<b>Licensing Board – 5:00pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	
	<b>School Committee – 6:00pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	<b>City Council – Finance Subcommittee – 5:00pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	
	<b>Cultural Council – 6:00pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	<b>Historical Commission – 6:30pm</b> <a href="#"><u>Zoom Link</u></a>	

*Please note: All agendas and Zoom links are also uploaded to the city website at <https://easthamptonma.gov/agendas-minutes.html>.*

*If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please check out the vacancies list [HERE](#). The Application to Serve is available [HERE](#).*