

# Guidance to Cape & Islands Seasonal Community

## Information for Members of Cape Cod & the Island's Seasonal Community:

Updated as of May 18, 2020 - [Effective through the end of Phase 1 of Governor Baker's Phased Plan to Reopen Massachusetts.](#)

Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and the Elizabeth Islands are small year-round communities whose residents appreciate, welcome, and depend upon you, our seasonal residents, non-resident homeowners, seasonal workforce, and visitors.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the upcoming summer season, we all understand the desire to return to visit, work, or live on the Cape & Islands. So far, we have been successful in limiting the extent of the impact of COVID-19 on our communities by implementing early and vigilant social distancing measures per the guidance of the public health officials.

However, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health warns that we remain vulnerable to new cases due to the highly contagious and insidious nature of this disease. The seasonal nature of our communities and the influx of population in the warmer months makes our public health challenges even greater.

**We all must do our part to remain safe and healthy by being aware of the following information and by taking the common sense precautionary measures outlined below by public health officials.**

- [The Governor of Massachusetts has:](#)
  - Advised that you wash your hands and clean surfaces frequently
  - [Issued an order requiring that you protect yourself and others with a face covering/mask in public places where social distancing is not possible.](#)
  - Advised that individuals practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from others
  - Stay vigilant for symptoms and stay home if you're sick
- If you are planning to travel here, please be advised that the Governor of Massachusetts is urging all travelers to the state to self-quarantine for 14 days through Phase 1. Please visit [Mass.gov/reopening](https://www.mass.gov/reopening) for details and updates.
- In addition, individuals are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms. We ask that you refrain from traveling to the Cape and Islands even from within Massachusetts if you are displaying symptoms.
- If you are planning to travel to the Cape and Islands:
  - Utilize contactless pick-up or delivery through our local businesses to enable the 14 day quarantine, including prescriptions, cleaning supplies, personal health items and personal protective equipment.
  - If exhibiting flu like symptoms or experiencing respiratory illness during or after quarantine, do not go to work. Contact the local healthcare provider in your area for instructions on accessing care.

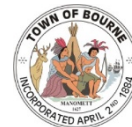
- Check and follow advisories on transportation, especially guidelines if you are traveling by ferry or air.
- [During Phase 1, lodging \(including hotels and short term rentals\) is restricted to essential workers only. The state’s reopening plan indicates that lodging will reopen with restrictions under Phase 2.](#)
- [Gatherings of 10 or more people are not permitted though Phase 1 of the Reopening Process.](#)
- Be aware that many states have different guidance and restrictions related to COVID-19. For information regarding Massachusetts COVID-19 response, please visit: [Mass.gov/covid19](https://www.mass.gov/covid19) and [Mass.gov/reopening](https://www.mass.gov/reopening)

Please recognize that many of the amenities you are used to enjoying in our communities may be operating at limited capacity at this time and must comply with [Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces](#). Be patient and follow health advisories as we all try to adjust to this “new normal”. We appreciate your support of our local economy.

With your help, and all of us working together, Cape Cod and the Islands will recover from this virus and these challenging economic times. We look forward to welcoming you back. Thank you for supporting this place that we all love by respecting this guidance.



MARTHA'S VINEYARD  
HOSPITAL



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**Randy Hunt**

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