

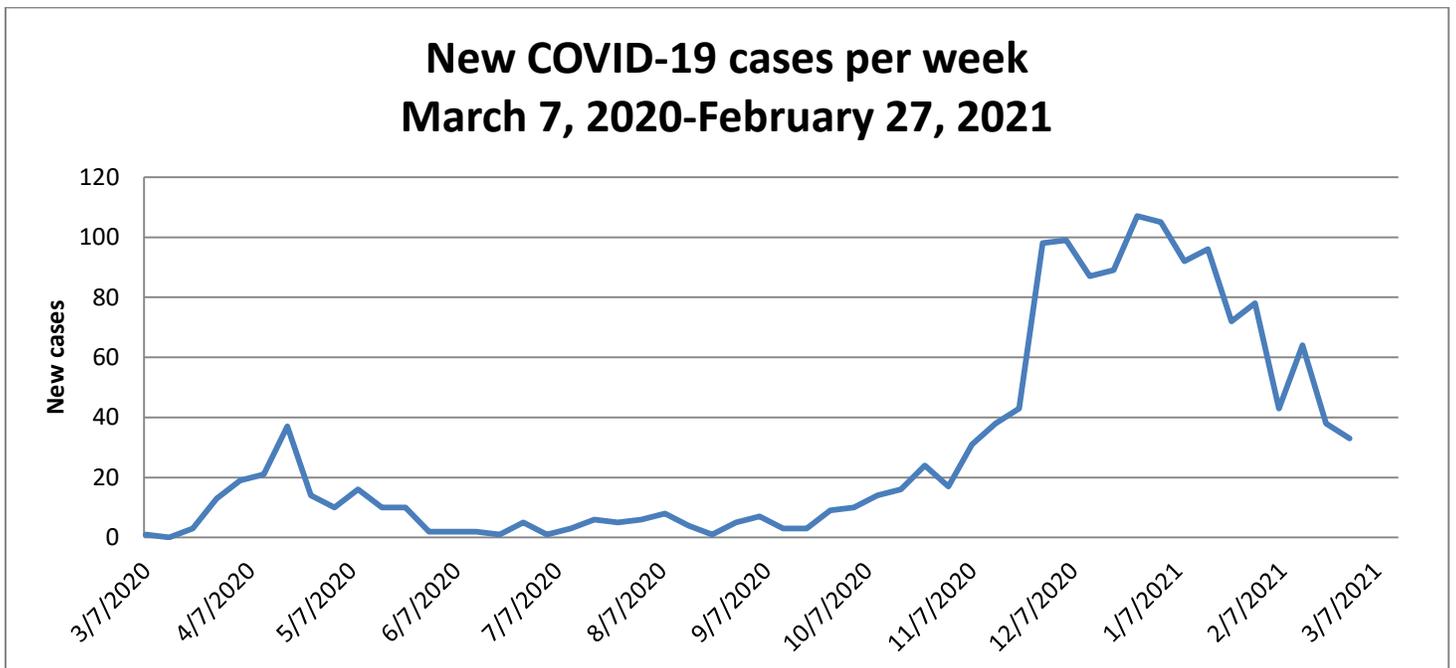
## COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

**March 2, 2021:**

The Town of Mansfield continues its community update on our website with our up to date information and important tips for the public as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more complete information, please see the town [coronavirus webpage](#).

- **As of today, please see the below chart that represents our communities COVID-19 relates cases:**

<i>Mansfield Covid-19 Workflow</i>	#	
<b>Positive COVID-19 under isolation</b>	<b>46</b>	(updated 3/02 08:00)
<b>Positive Cases recovered</b>	<b>1399</b>	
<b>Total tested positive since beginning:</b>	<b>1467</b>	
<b>Mansfield Community Designation Level</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
<b>Covid-19 Related Deaths</b>	<b>22</b>	Last Covid death in Mansfield 01/15/21



- [Visiting a restaurant or bar](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has been [stressful](#) and isolating for many people. Many go to restaurants and bars to enjoy a meal without having to cook, to connect with friends and family, and to support businesses that are an important part of many communities.

However, visiting bars and restaurants can increase your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.

### Why Visiting Restaurants and Bars May Increase Risk

In a recent study, scientists found that adults with positive COVID-19 test results were twice as likely to have reported dining at a restaurant than those with negative COVID-19 test results. There are many factors that may explain why going to restaurants and bars increases your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19:

- People from different households are gathering in the same space.
- Eating and drinking requires the removal of a [mask](#).
- If eating indoors, [ventilation](#) flow in restaurants and bars can cause droplets to spread at distances greater than 6 feet. Poor ventilation can also increase risk as it may cause the virus to accumulate in the air.
- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet is often difficult to maintain in restaurants and bars.
- People need to talk louder in restaurants and bars to hear one another. This can contribute to the production of more virus aerosols.
- Use of alcohol may alter judgment and make it more difficult for people to practice COVID-19 safety measures.



While **the safest way to enjoy and support restaurants and bars is to take out food and eat it at home with people who live with you**, there are ways that you can go to a restaurant and bar and still reduce your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.

### Check the restaurant's or bar's COVID-19 prevention practices before you go

- Check if outdoor seating is available and if options allow groups to be at least 6 feet apart from one another. If a tent is set-up outdoors, make sure that at least one side is open or rolled up. An enclosed tent is like eating indoors.
- Avoid busy times of day or night. It's safest to visit when fewer people are at the restaurant or bar.

- Check the restaurant or bar’s website and social media to see if you feel comfortable with their COVID-19 safety guidelines. Guidelines should require *both* staff and patrons to wear masks while not eating or drinking. Check if menus are available online or via app for safer ordering. Call if the posted information is unclear or if you have questions.
- Find out if valet parking is required or if you can self-park. If valet is the only option, it’s best to leave your windows open and let your car air out for at least 15 minutes after the valet returns your car to you.

### **Take steps to protect yourself at the restaurant or bar**

- Eat outdoors, if possible. You are less likely to get or spread COVID-19 during outdoor activities. Look for seating options that are outside and have proper ventilation of outdoor air, such as tents that have open doors or rolled up sides.
- Wear masks at all times, both indoors and outdoors, except when you are actively eating or drinking. Masks help protect both you and those around you.
- Avoid crowds and sit at tables spaced at least 6 feet apart from people you don’t live with, both indoors and outdoors. If you are standing, stay at least 6 feet apart from those who do not live with you.
- Limit alcohol consumption. Consuming alcohol may make you less likely to follow COVID-19 safety measures.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before eating and when exiting the restaurant or bar. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Ask for individual condiment and salt and pepper packets, as the condiments on the table may not be cleaned between patrons.
- Minimize the time you spend in the restaurant or bar. The longer you stay, the more you increase your risk.

- **Current Status of Vaccination Priority Groups**

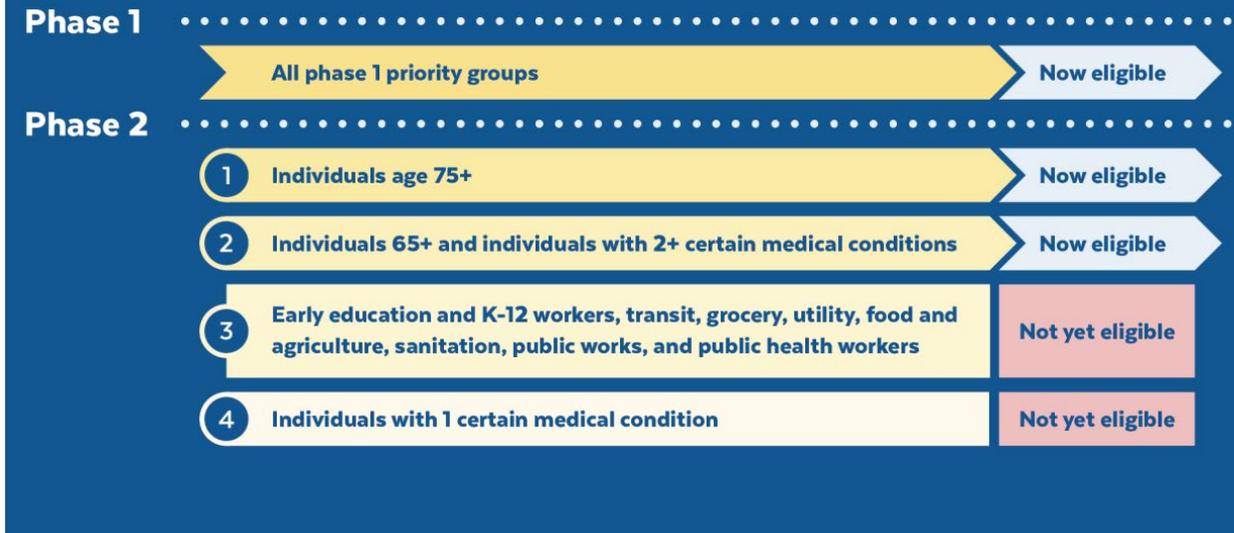
### **Phase 2 (February-March 2021)**

Listed in order of priority:

- **Group 1:** [Individuals age 75+](#)
- **Group 2:** [Individuals age 65+, individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions,](#) and/or [residents and staff of low income and affordable senior housing.](#)
- **Not yet eligible: Group 3:** Other workers, including Early Education and K-12 workers, transit, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers.
- **Not yet eligible: Group 4:** Individuals with one [certain medical condition](#)

More details on all the COVID-19 vaccination phases can be found [here](#).

## COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Phase 1 & 2 Eligibility Status



- **Steps to get your vaccination**

Step 1: Check your eligibility below or [use our tool](#)

Step 2: [Book an appointment](#)

Step 3: [Prepare for your appointment](#)

- **MA Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line**

The [Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource](#) Line is available to support people 75 and older to schedule a COVID-19 appointment if they are unable to use or have difficulty accessing the internet. **This line is reserved only for people who do not have internet access or have the capability to schedule an appointment online.**

The call center hours of operation:

- **Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For assistance scheduling, dial 2-1-1 and follow the prompts for vaccine appointments. The Massachusetts Scheduling Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available to support residents in approximately 100 additional languages.

This resource line is not to answer general questions about COVID-19 or provide individual health care advice. **The quickest and easiest way to schedule a vaccine appointment or check availability is to use the online system at [mass.gov/covidvaccine](https://mass.gov/covidvaccine).**

At this point, the Town does not have any vaccine for public distribution. Please go to the [COVID webpage](#) for vaccine information and updates.

[COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](#)

[When can I get the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[COVID-19 frequently asked questions](#)

[How to prepare for your COVID-19 vaccine appointment](#)

- **Phase 3, Step 2 in effect now**

**Phase 3, Step 2: Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Commonwealth will move forward into Phase 3, Step 2.** This will reopen:

- Indoor performance venues such as concert halls, theaters, and other indoor performance spaces: Open at 50% capacity with 500 person max
- Indoor recreational activities with greater potential for contact: laser tag, roller skating, trampolines, obstacle courses: Open at 50% capacity

**Updated Capacity Limits: Effective March 1<sup>st</sup> the following industries will increase to 50% capacity.** Employees will be exempt from capacity restrictions in ***all*** of these industries:

- Arcades & Other Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Businesses
- Close Contact Personal Services
- Driving and Flight Schools
- Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Golf Facilities (indoor)
- Libraries
- Operators of Lodging (common spaces)
- Museums, Cultural & Historic Facilities, Guided Tours
- Office Spaces
- Places of Worship
- Sectors not Otherwise Addressed
- Theaters and Performance Venues
- Relevant EEA Industries – Youth sports spectators etc.
- *The following industries remain unaffected by capacity limits:* Drive in movie theaters; Construction; Laboratories; Manufacturing

**Additional Guidance Changes:**

- **Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, Restaurants will no longer be subject to a % seated capacity limit and their capacity is limited only by the requirement of 6 feet between tables**
  - Musical performances allowed in restaurants (with appropriate distancing)
  - 90 minute time limit on tables *stays in place*
  - Limit of no more than 6 per table *stays in place*
  - Food courts *remain closed*
- **Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, Fitting rooms may open in all retail businesses**

**Gatherings Limit: Effective March 22<sup>nd</sup>, subject to public health data, the gatherings limit will increase for event venues and public settings, but will stay the same in private settings:**

- **Event Venues and Public Settings:** 100 indoor; 150 outdoor
- **Private Settings (such as private residences):** 10 indoors; 25 outdoors

**Phase 4, Step 1: Effective March 22<sup>nd</sup>, subject to public health data, the Commonwealth will move into Phase 4, Step 1:**

- Indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks will reopen with a **12%** capacity limit
- Overnight Camps will be allowed to open for Summer 2021
- Exhibition and Convention Halls may reopen, subject to gathering limits and event rules
- Dance floors may open at weddings and events *only*
- All other Phase 4 industries will not be able to open until a future reopening step.

Updated guidance can be found at [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening).