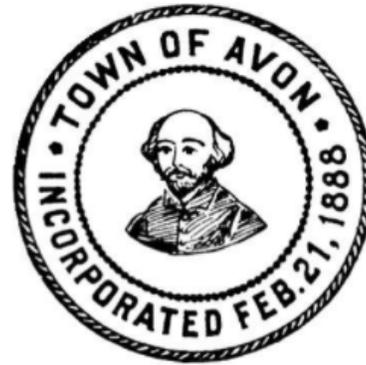


Town of Avon

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Avon Urges Vigilance After Community Reaches High Risk Designation for COVID-19

AVON — Town Administrator Gregory S. Enos and Health Agent Kathleen Waldron are urging residents to remain vigilant against the spread of COVID-19 as the community reaches a high risk designation for the disease, a significant change from its low risk designation last week.

According to the [public health data](#) released on Thursday, Dec. 10, the Town's designation is "Red," indicating a "high risk" of spread in the community. The average daily incidence rate for the Town of Avon is 44.07 per 100,000 residents, up from 21.2 last week.

[According to town officials](#), as of Thursday, there were 29 positive cases of COVID-19 in the community over the past two weeks. There have been a total of 166 cases in Avon since the start of the pandemic.

Residents are strongly encouraged to avoid high risk activities, especially indoor social gatherings, and all Massachusetts residents are under orders from the Governor to wear a mask at all times while in public.

"It is crucial that residents continue to follow the proper COVID-19 prevention guidance, as shown by our significant change in risk level this week," Town Administrator Enos said. "We urge residents to continue their efforts and to call their doctor, get tested and stay home until they receive results if they are experiencing symptoms or may have been exposed."

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 13, all communities in Massachusetts will revert back to Phase 3, Step 1 of Gov. Charlie Baker's four-phase approach for reopening.

As a part of Phase 3, Step 1, Avon will once again follow the below protocols:

- Outdoor performance venue capacity will remain at 25% with a max of 50 people
- Indoor theaters and performance venues must remain closed
- Outdoor gatherings at event venues and in public settings will be limited to 50 people
- Hosts of outdoor gatherings of greater than 25 people will be required to provide advance notice of the gathering their local board of health
- Indoor recreation businesses with high-risk activities such as trampolines, obstacle courses, roller rinks and laser tag must remain closed
- Gyms, museums, libraries, offices, driving/flight schools, retail establishments, indoor/outdoor recreational businesses and places of worship must keep their capacity at 40%

The following guidelines will be put in place for restaurants and other venues with seated dining:

- Patrons are required to wear a mask at all times except when eating and drinking
- Restaurants must seat no more than six people per table
- Restaurants must impose a 90-minute time limit on tables
- Musical performances at restaurants will no longer be permitted
- Food court seating must be closed in malls

Additional COVID-19 prevention tips from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health include:

- Remember that an infected individual can spread COVID-19 before they have symptoms, which is why social distancing, maintaining a minimum of 6 feet from others, is critical.
- Those who must go out are urged to:
 - Avoid gathering in groups
 - Maintain 6 feet from people outside your household
 - Do not shake hands or hug
 - Wash your hands often
- Those who are at a high risk for COVID-19, including those over the age of 65 and with underlying health conditions, are advised to stay home and avoid non-essential tasks and errands
- Wear a mask in indoor and outdoor spaces at all times.
- Face coverings should:
 - Cover the nose and mouth
 - Fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face
 - Be secured with either ties or ear loops
 - Permit breathing without difficulty
 - Be able to be washed and machine dried without damage. Face masks should be washed regularly depending on the amount of use.

For more information about COVID-19 prevention and symptoms, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website [here](#) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website [here](#).

Any resident with questions or concerns is asked to contact the Avon Board of Health at 508-588-0414 ext. 1016, or email kwaldron@avon-ma.gov. To view video updates on Avon's public health data, visit the Town's YouTube page by clicking [here](#).

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