



**ADVISORY OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
REQUESTING OWNERS, MANAGERS, AND RESIDENTS OF SENIOR HOUSING
TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY VISITATION**

DATE OF ADVISORY: April 19, 2020

The Boston Public Health Commission, acting through its duly appointed and authorized agent, Interim Executive Director Rita Nieves, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111, § 30, the Boston Public Health Act of 1995, M.G.L. c. 111 App §§ 2-6, M.G.L. c. 111 §§ 31, 104, 122, and the Boston Public Health Commission's Declaration of a Public Health Emergency Relative to COVID-19 in the City of Boston dated March 15, 2020, hereby declares as follows:

Whereas, a Public Health Emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) is in effect in the City of Boston pursuant to declaration of the Boston Public Health Commission dated March 15, 2020, in full force and effect until April 27, 2020, unless circumstances warrant an extension by the Interim Executive Director;

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, Governor Baker declared that there exists within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19;

Whereas, the Interim Executive Director has determined that community-wide compliance with the practice of social distancing, including people remaining at least six feet apart, and eliminating all unnecessary physical interaction is reasonably believed to be necessary to prevent or reduce the immediate spread of COVID-19;

Whereas, the unique size and density of Boston’s population poses inherently elevated risks of transmission, particularly among seniors, that the City must address on behalf of the public health of the City and region; and

Whereas, a disproportionately large and important number and concentration businesses designated as Essential Businesses under the Governor’s March 23, 2020 Order, including in particular hospitals, are located in Boston and additional measures are required to protect the large number of Essential Workers who work in Boston and patients who seek their care;

Whereas, the Interim Executive Director has determined that additional public health advisories, orders, and social distancing requirements are necessary to reduce the transmission of COVID-19;

Whereas, the intent of this Advisory is to ensure that residents and businesses in Boston act consistently with the imperative public health need that the entire community achieve the maximum amount of social distancing feasible, while continuing to provide and receive essential services, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible.

THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY IS HEREBY IN EFFECT FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON, AS FOLLOWS:

1. It is essential to slow the transmission of COVID-19 as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to reserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the City. One proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable.
2. The Executive Director hereby advises all owners and operators of senior housing in the city of Boston to restrict any visitation to units within their properties except for those visits that are necessary to provide essential services, such as deliveries of food and medicine any other products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, or care from personal care assistants, home care providers, or other medical professionals. For the purpose of this Advisory, senior housing should be read broadly to include any property that is generally intended for or restricted to senior residents.
3. Visits should be limited to the extent necessary to achieve their purpose, and follow social distancing and disease mitigation practices, including, but not limited to, maintaining physical distance of at least six feet wherever possible, wearing masks, and washing hands before and after any visit. Further, owners and operators of senior housing in the city of Boston are advised to make reasonable efforts to restrict essential visits from individuals with recent travel or with symptoms of COVID-19.
4. Where practicable, building owners and managers are encouraged to facilitate deliveries of such necessities in a manner that minimizes personal contact with residents.
5. Building owners and managers are advised to communicate the requirements of this Advisory with their residents, post signage to notify potential visitors.

6. This order does not apply to long term care facilities covered by the Order issued by the Commissioner of Public Health on March 12, 2020 or assisted living residences covered by the Order issued by the Commissioner of Public Health on March 15, 2020.
7. Consistent with previous guidance, unnecessary physical visitation to any residence within the city of Boston continues to be strongly discouraged.
8. This Advisory shall begin immediately, and will continue for the duration of the Public Health Emergency in Boston, as it may be extended, at which time the Executive Director shall review all relevant information and determine if extending the provisions of this Advisory is warranted.

ENFORCEMENT

9. All reasonable efforts will be made to secure voluntary compliance with this Advisory. The Executive Director may seek the assistance of other City of Boston agencies in encouraging compliance with this order.

NOTICE

10. Notice of this Advisory as will be made as follows: (1) by posting on the City's website (boston.gov) and the Boston Public Health Commission website (bphc.org); by providing to any member of the public requesting a copy. In addition, efforts will be made to communicate the substance of this order with the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order.

IT IS SO ADVISED:

Dated: April 19, 2020



Rita Nieves
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION