



# COVID-19 ADVISORY

**Monday, March 16, 2020**

## **OUR WORK CONTINUES**

For the Downtown Boston BID, our priority has always been our downtown and the community – our members, our team, and our partners. We are following recommendations from state and federal authorities as they develop. Please be assured that while we are focused on the health and safety of our employees, members, and those around us, we remain focused on continued services to the greatest extent possible. We will be nimble and flexible as this situation evolves.

We have been developing a "work anywhere" infrastructure such that, if needed, our staff will be able to work remotely at this time. Over the past two years, we've shifted our databases, communications systems, and even our image library online and into the cloud, giving us complete access and working capabilities from any location. We are well-positioned to continue to support the needs of our members from the BID office at 101 Arch Street--or from our homes remotely.

We are available for phone calls and video-conferencing. The Downtown Boston BID's Ambassador services also remain in place; the BID Dispatch line continues to be staffed, at 617-261-0066. Please reach out with questions or issues.

We will continue to analyze the social and economic impact of COVID-19. This includes the safety and well-being of our employees and the delivery of services to all of our members.

## **CONSTRUCTION SITES CLOSED**

Effective Tuesday, March 17th, the City is suspending all regular activity at construction sites in Boston. This suspension also includes any projects involving street repairs, with the exception of emergency utility work.

## **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY**

On Sunday, March 15th, 2020, **Governor Charlie Baker** issued "An Order Prohibiting The Gathering Of More Than 25 People And On-Premises Consumption Of Food Or Drink." The order bars all on-premises consumption of food and drink in Massachusetts in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The text of the Governor's Order [can be found here](#).

**Effective beginning at 12:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020, all on-premises consumption licensees are prohibited from selling alcohol to the public until 11:59 p.m. on April 5, 2020.**

This includes restaurants, bars, hotels, general-on-premises, clubs, war veterans' clubs, continuing care retirement communities, pub-brewers (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 12 and 19D), farmer-series pouring permits, and manufacturer's

pouring permits (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 19(b), 19B(n), 19C(n), and 19E(o)). These establishments are also prohibited from serving any food or drinks for on-premises consumption; only takeout and delivery of food is permitted.

Please note that this Advisory does not apply to licenses for off-premises consumption, including grocery stores, pharmacies, package stores, direct wine shippers, and farmer-series licensees (M.G.L. c. 138, §§ 15, 19B(g)(2), 19C(g)(7), 19E(g)(7), and 19F).

As always, all licensees must ensure that they comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and that sales of alcoholic beverages take place only as authorized by federal, state, and local law. All questions should be directed to **Ralph Sacramone**, [rsacramone@tre.state.ma.us](mailto:rsacramone@tre.state.ma.us), 617-727-3040 ext 731.

(Issued March 15, 2020)

### **MBTA SCHEDULE REVISIONS**

In response to coordinated efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, the MBTA will implement several changes to service levels, effective with the start of service on Tuesday, March 17th.

These changes are being made based on guidance from public health professionals and have been developed according to several criteria that seek to protect the health and safety of MBTA employees and customers, while factoring in recent reductions in ridership. Acknowledging guidance that recommends that people avoid large crowds, the MBTA will operate at levels that support social distancing.

“The MBTA plays an important role in slowing the spread of the coronavirus while continuing to provide critical services to medical professionals and other employees in key industries that rely on public transit,” said **MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak**. “While some of these changes are inconvenient, they maintain a responsible balance between protecting the health and safety of the MBTA workforce and our customers, and our goal of continuing to run safe and reliable service without major disruptions.”

As this situation evolves, the MBTA will continue assessing ridership needs, with a particular focus on workforce access for hospitals, as well as food distribution locations operated by the City of Boston. As part of that ongoing assessment, the T will continue monitoring customer volumes and make service adjustments accordingly; this means that if the T experiences an increase in ridership, capacity will be added as necessary.

A comprehensive list of MBTA schedule changes stemming from the outbreak can be found at [mbta.com/coronavirus](http://mbta.com/coronavirus).

### **BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CLOSED**

The Boston Public Library and all satellite BPL branches will be closed after 6 p.m. this Monday, March 16th, 2020. All online BPL services will remain available. More information [can be found here](#).

### **SOCIAL SAFETY NET**

The United Way of Mass Bay is responding to the pandemic in a variety of ways. You can [learn more from their website](#).

In addition, The City of Boston has established the [Boston Resiliency Fund](#)

and more information will be forthcoming in the days and weeks to come.

### **PARKING IN DOWNTOWN BOSTON**

As the MBTA schedule is changing, and if people need to park, we are recommending our area parking facilities. Here is [a link to a full listing](#) of garages that offer easy access to Downtown Boston.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION**

We will continue to monitor this situation and keep you apprised. In the meantime be safe and follow all protocols in place at this time. Our thoughts are with you and your families.

#### **Rosemarie E. Sansone**

President and CEO

617-482-2139 (main office)

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#### **Additional Resources - bookmark & save**

[Boston Public Health Commission](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Mass.gov Coronavirus Update](#)

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