



DEPARTMENT OF
CAREER SERVICES

Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 08.126

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: June 22, 2021

Subject: **Massachusetts Return to In-Person Services: Key Activities and Dates**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other local workforce development partners of some key dates and activities for the public workforce system as services return to in-person services and as Massachusetts rebounds in a post-Covid environment.

Background: On May 17, 2021, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that the Commonwealth is on track to meet the goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents, the lifting of all remaining COVID-19 restrictions and the opening of all industries. With the exception of the remaining face covering requirements for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions are now lifted and capacity increased to 100% for all industries. Face coverings remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers. Gathering limits are rescinded; and the State of Emergency ended by Governor Charlie Baker effective June 15, 2021.

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Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) and MassHire Department of Career Services (MDCS) have been working closely to maximize services for the Commonwealth's jobseekers and employers by developing new virtual tools and platforms, increasing staff knowledge and developing new strategies to streamline the jobseeker experience toward a goal of reemployment. Please reference the information below for key activities and corresponding dates.

Action

Requested: Please share this issuance with all appropriate staff and partners.

Effective: Immediately

MA LET'S GET to WORK: KEY ACTIVITIES and DATES

<u>Month</u>	<u>Key Date</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>MassHire Status</u>
<u>June</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ May 29 – COVID limitations lifted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ face coverings (replaced by CDC guidance except in schools, public transit, nursing homes) ○ businesses can reopen at full capacity ✓ Week of June 13th – Work Search requirements for all Unemployment Insurance claimants reinstated (PEUC, EB, regular UI claimants) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beginning Sunday, June 20, when claimants sign for their weekly benefits they are subject to reporting work search efforts for the prior week ✓ June 15 – “State of Emergency” ends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work Search Messaging Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeted audience: weekly email to continued claimants impacted by work search and the employer community with guides on how to complete work search and access resources through MassHire ✓ Week of June 28th – Enhanced Job Search tool (JobQuest) - will feature enhanced job search functionality, mobile-friendly enhancements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MassHire Services conducted in virtual mode, including by phone
<u>July</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ July 12 – target for opening of the new replacement for the DUA Walk-In Center (located in Boston) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Reemployment Center will comprise both DUA UI Claimant Support services as well as informational services and guidance with regard to accessing the MassHire Career Centers and their offerings. ○ UI in-person access and reemployment navigation ✓ July 15th – RESEA sanctions reinstated* <i>*date is subject to change; we will keep you apprised</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kickoff off “Let’s Get To Work” messaging campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeted audience: all unemployed, including non-claimants ✓ Virtual Pathway 1.0 Release (End of July) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MassHire Services conducted in virtual mode, including by phone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In-person services available by <i>appointment only</i> <p>NOTE: <i>MassHire Career Centers must ensure websites are appropriately updated with hours of operation and protocols for the public.</i></p>
<u>August</u>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MassHire Services conducted in virtual mode, including by phone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In-person services available by <i>appointment only</i>
<u>September</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Week of Sept 6th – Return to public walk-in access - no appointment required ✓ September 4th – Federal benefits (FPUC, PUA PEUC, etc.) end 		<p>MassHire: Full Public Access</p> <p>MassHire Services will be conducted virtually, by phone and in-person (no appointment required)</p>

Key Policy Items for MassHire Return to In-Person Services

1. **A MassHire Career Center can set its own policy** or follow the policy of its governing organization on requiring masks for employees or vaccinations. State staff will follow the policies put in place in the career center they are working from.
 - a. **The Commonwealth HRD issued guidance for state agencies.** The guidance is linked [here](#). As you review the information, please note that EOLWD does not define a MassHire center as a “commonwealth workplace” and therefore the MassHire Center is not required to follow the guidance. Be advised to consider any local requirements that may apply and determine your own policy.
 - b. For MassHire Career Centers renting space in a **state-owned property**, the MassHire Center still has the right to determine its own policies within the space. State staff will follow the policies put in place in the career center they are working from.
2. **State Employees whose duties require them to report to locations outside the Commonwealth's worksites should observe face covering requirements, social distancing, and related policies in effect at these sites.** Employees should educate themselves as to any requirements at these locations prior to reporting to them on-site.
3. **Vaccination of MassHire employees (non-state staff).** Legally, employers have the right to require employees to be vaccinated.
4. **Vaccinations of MassHire employees (state staff).** EOLWD/MassHire Centers cannot require state employees to be vaccinated as they are subject to the HRD policy which does not require vaccination as a condition of employment.

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