THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STANDARDS

MAURA HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIM DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LAUREN E. JONES
SECRETARY

MICHAEL FLANAGAN
DIRECTOR

To: All Massachusetts Chiefs of Police, The Police Commissioner of the City of Boston

From: Michael Flanagan, Director Department of Labor Standards

Date: August 11, 2026

Re: Permits for Holiday Openings

Thanksgiving Day-November 26, 2026 and Christmas Day-December 25, 2026

The Department of Labor Standards must approve all local permits to allow retail stores and businesses to perform work and to be open on certain holidays, including Thanksgiving, November 26, 2026, and Christmas Day, December 25, 2026. Permits must be approved by the Department of Labor Standards on a uniform basis statewide. See Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 136, §15.

Please be advised that the Department of Labor Standards will NOT issue statewide approval for permits for businesses to open on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day 2026.

For further information, please view our Blue Laws Overview on our website at mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-blue-laws-and-working-on-sundays-and-holidays or contact the Department of Labor Standards at (617) 626-6951.

Michael Flanagan, Director

100 CAMBRIDGE STREET • SUITE 500 • BOSTON, MA 02114
PHONE: (617) 626-6975 • FAX: (617) 626-6965
www.mass.gov/dols