



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
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**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION ADVISORY REGARDING
GATHERINGS FOR LICENSEES SELLING ALCOHOL FOR ON-PREMISES
CONSUMPTION**

On September 29, 2020, Governor Baker issued Covid-19 Order No. 52- Phase III, Step 2 Order Regulating Gatherings in the Commonwealth. The text of the Order may be found [HERE](#).

Licensees are reminded that until Phase IV commences, all licensees licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption must provide seated food service with the sale of alcohol. The food must be prepared on-site and under a retail food permit issued by a local licensing authority pursuant to 105 CMR 590.00.

Beginning Monday, October 5, 2020, Licensees that regularly lease, contract, or otherwise reserve any portion of their outdoor licensed premises for the purpose of an event/ gathering (wedding, party, etc.), public or private may hold such outdoor event/ gathering as long as there is never more than 100 people in a single venue or space and as long the outdoor event/ gathering is taking place in a Lower Risk Community as defined in [COVID-19 Order No. 51](#).

For outdoor events/gatherings where more than 50 attendees are anticipated, the Licensee must provide notice to the Local Board of Health in the municipality where the event/gathering is located at least one week before the event is scheduled, or otherwise as soon as possible where one week notice is not practicable due to the nature of the event. The notification shall include, at minimum, the location and time of the planned event, the name and contact information of the event organizer, the number of anticipated attendees, and any other information reasonably requested by the Local Board of Health.

In municipalities that do not qualify as Lower Risk Communities, outdoor events/gatherings as described above held on licensed premises are limited to a maximum of 50 people in a single venue or space.

In all municipalities, Licensees holding indoor events/gatherings are limited to 25 people in a single enclosed space.

Licensee employees working at an indoor or outdoor event do not count towards the capacity limitations.

In addition to the capacity restrictions specified above, all participants of indoor and outdoor events/ gatherings at licensed premises must maintain 6 feet of physical distance from every other participant in the gathering except where individuals are members of the same household. An indoor or outdoor event/ gathering violates the Governor's Covid-19 Order No. 52, no matter the

number of participants present if conditions or activities at the gathering are such that it is not reasonably possible for participants to maintain six feet of separation.

Licensees must remain in compliance with all applicable Sector Specific Workplace Safety Standards including but not limited to those for Restaurants.

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 concerning outdoor entertainment should be directed to your local licensing authority. Any questions pertaining to public health should be directed to your local health department. All other questions should be directed to ABCC Executive Director Ralph Sacramone at rsacramone@tre.state.ma.us or (617) 727-3040 ext. 731.

(Issued October 2, 2020)