



ABH Committee Meetings

ABH will continue to hold check-in calls with our services committees to hear questions and feedback that you have, answer as many questions as we can and seek answers to those we cannot. These calls are for ABH members only.

If you are not a member of one of our Committees but you would like to join, ABH invites you as a member to participate.

Please review the [Committee Descriptions](#), identify which ABH Committees you would like to join, and contact Meg Socha, Member Engagement and Event Coordinator at msocha@abhmass.org.

Please note that the Children's Services CEO Leadership Committee, Senior Leadership Committee on Partnering with Underserved Populations, and ACCS Policy Committee are for CEOs and their direct reports only.

To join one of these committees, please contact us directly.

Reopening for Non-Acute Hospital Health Care Providers

On May 18, Governor Baker announced [Phase I](#) of reopening of the Commonwealth as we collectively work to manage the COVID-19 public health emergency. The state's Stay at Home advisory has been updated to [Safer at Home advisory](#) and the Governor is permitting the limited opening of many sectors of the state economy.

Only a limited set of in-person services will resume, including:

- High-priority preventative services including pediatric care, immunizations and screenings for at risk patients; and
- Urgent procedures for conditions that, if left untreated, would lead to high risk or significant worsening of the patient's condition, based on the provider's clinical judgment

To begin offering these in-person services, providers must attest that they are able to deliver these services safely while preserving the healthcare system's ability to treat COVID-19. This includes specific safety standards such as social distancing, personal protective equipment use, and infection control before they re-open.

In this phase, providers will continue to maximize telehealth and provide services virtually whenever possible. Individuals with non-emergency health needs should call their health care provider, who will use their clinical judgment to determine if a procedure or service should be done in person in the immediate future.

The Commonwealth will evaluate when this limited roll out can be safely modified to expand services in the subsequent phases of the reopening to include:

- Broader in-person preventative services (e.g., dental cleanings)
- Day programs (e.g., Adult Day Health, Day Habilitation, and other human service supportive day programs)
- By the last phase of the reopening, all healthcare services may reopen with guidelines in place

Re-opening of HHS day and human service employment/support programs will be discussed as part of ongoing HHS dialogue with Human Service and Adult Day Health providers and stakeholders.

PPE Supplies

The Commonwealth has made a list of vendors offering relevant hygienic and protective supplies for the workplace, and includes state contract vendors that Massachusetts has historically purchased from and manufacturers that have pivoted to producing hygienic or protective supplies.

The link is available here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-purchasing-hygienic-or-protective-supplies-for-the-workplace>. You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser for it to load.

Re-Opening in Massachusetts

If you are wondering what can open and when in Massachusetts under Governor Baker's four-phase re-opening plan, *The Boston Globe* has produced an easy-to-follow chart and summary. You can access it via this link:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/05/18/metro/look-what-can-reopen-each-phase-massachusetts-opening-plan/>.

Significant additional information is available on the state's reopening website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>.

Harvard Medical School Survey Participation Invitation - Impact of COVID-19 on Provider Practices

You are invited to take part in a survey hosted by Harvard Medical School that aims to inform policymakers about the economic and clinical impact of COVID-19 on practices. This evidence will inform policy efforts to support practices during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey has 14 items. Your participation is voluntary. You may withdraw your participation for any reason. No patient information is asked. All responses are confidential. Results will be anonymized and aggregated without any practice-identifying information. Harvard Medical School would be happy to share the anonymized aggregate results with you as a token of their appreciation for your participation.

[Take the Survey Here.](#)

The survey is approved by the Harvard Medical School Institutional Review Board. Responses are stored on the secure Harvard platform to minimize risks to data confidentiality. The survey is supported by a coalition of clinicians, clinical leaders, and researchers.

COVID-19 Massachusetts Testing Site Map

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has released an interactive map that provides an easy way to locate a COVID-19 test site near you. All of those experiencing symptoms or those who have been in close contact recently with a COVID positive individual should seek testing.

To access a map featuring all COVID-19 testing sites in MA, click [here](#).

ABH COVID-19 Landing Page

ABH has created a COVID-19 resource page where we are collecting the guidance most relevant to ABH members:

<https://www.abhmass.org/newsroom/announcements/guidance-on-covid-19.html>.

National Advocacy for Expansion of Paycheck Protection Program

ABH continues to hear from our members whose organizational size made them ineligible to apply for the federal Paycheck Protection Program and other federal relief programs. The National Council for Behavioral Health recently shared the following update with ABH in regards to their continued advocacy in support of these organizations.

Our main effort to provide relief for mid to large size nonprofits pertains to SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) eligibility. Currently, the SBA PPP limits eligibility to small businesses and nonprofits who employ fewer than 500 individuals. The National Council, in partnership with ANCOR, drafted a white paper for members of congress highlighting the importance of PPP eligibility for nonprofits employing in excess of 500 individuals and providing critical services. On Thursday, April 30, 2020 the white paper went out to the members of congress representing all National Council members impacted by the PPP eligibility size limitation.

On May 1, 2020 an action alert went out to the contact listed on the filed i990s for impacted National Council members, asking that they contact their members of congress requesting that PPP eligibility be expanded in the next stimulus package. The white paper was included in that message to Congress.

The specific ask to Congress is the following:

We urge Congress to modify Section 1102 (D) of the CARES Act to allow non-profits employing in excess of 500 employees and providing the following specific services to be eligible for the SBA PPP and include the following language in the next stimulus bill:

"Non-profits organizations as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and are exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code are exempt from the size limitation on employees under Section 1102 (D)(i) and (ii) if providing mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disability services and autism services."

Please complete the Action Alert linked below!

The Action Alert can be found [here](#):

In addition to this outreach, targeted efforts are being made to members of congress on committees of jurisdiction – most notably Small Business, Finance, Ways and Means, and, of course, the House and Senate Leadership.

Building Rapport with Youth Via Telehealth

Providers continue to report concerns about engaging youth via telehealth. The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership circulated the resource below targeting telehealth and youth. [COVID-19 Tips: Building Rapport with Youth Via Telehealth](#)

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Behavioral Health Supports for Justice Involved Individuals (BH-JI) Spring/Summer Navigator Trainings

UMass Health and Criminal Justice Program, with support of MassHealth is excited to share their virtual navigator training information for BH-JI navigators and staff of other provider organizations.

If you are interested in this training, please click on the link below and RSVP to the topics relevant to your work. We encourage you to share this with other colleagues who may be interested in attending as well.

Here is the link: <https://form.jotform.com/DCStraining/bh-ji-spring-2020-training>.

Note: Once RSVP'd, you will receive an email confirmation, but check junk mailbox if not received.

Please contact Jacquie Richards for any questions: Jacqueline.Richards@umassmed.edu.

Interesting Reads:

- [Latest Mass. Map And Case Count: Breaking Down Coronavirus Here In Charts.](#) *WBUR CommonHealth.*
- [From Camping To Dining Out: Here's How Experts Rate The Risks Of 14 Summer Activities.](#) *WBUR*
- [Nearly Half Of Americans Delayed Medical Care Due To Pandemic.](#) *Kaiser Health News.*
- [Why do some COVID-19 patients infect many others, whereas most don't spread the virus at all?](#) *Science.*