

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

April 30, 2021

Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- *Update to hospital visitor hours*
- *Massachusetts announces plans for continued reopening*
- *FDA and CDC lift pause on Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine use following safety review*
- *Vaccine appointments available for staff, patients, and general public*
- *Stories from the #SouthcoastFrontlines: Thanking the Intensive and Critical Care teams (ICU/CCU/SICU) across Southcoast Health*

Please scroll through the entire Bulletin to find these important updates.

And be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

Thank you.

Update to hospital visitor hours

Effective Monday, May 3, Hospital Visitation Hours will become 10am – 8pm. All existing restrictions remain in effect (ONE visitor per patient with limited exceptions).

Of note, Family Centered Units will stay with the existing limited hours (11am-2pm and 5pm-8pm) in order to support quiet time for families.

Visitation Policy

As of 5/3/21

For the protection of Southcoast Health's patients, employees and providers, please adhere to the following:

Hospital Inpatients* — ONE visitor at a time

- Visiting Hours: 10am – 8pm

- *Maternity Visiting Hours: 11am-2pm and 5pm-8pm

- No visitors under the age of 18 are allowed, unless a child or sibling of a patient
- Visitors should wait outside until the time of their visit

Emergency Department — ONE visitor

Visitor must remain with patient, NO visitor re-entry after exit

Surgical Patients and Same Day Surgery Center

ONE visitor will be allowed to visit and/or accompany a patient

Physician Offices, Imaging, Radiology, Laboratory Patient Service Center

ONE visitor will be allowed to visit and/or accompany a patient

NO visitors experiencing cough, shortness of breath, temperature over 100 degrees or other symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be allowed

NO in-person seminars, classes, or gatherings

We appreciate your cooperation.

 Southcoast Health

Massachusetts announces plans for continued reopening

On Tuesday, April 27, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that Massachusetts will reopen some outdoor Phase 4, Step 2 industries effective May 10 and put plans in place for further reopening on May 29 and August 1.

Effective April 30th, Face Coverings Order relaxed for some outdoor settings.

Face coverings no longer required outside in public, EXCEPT when:

- Social distancing is not possible (and when specifically required).
- Attending an outdoor event in a public space or private home, unless eating or drinking.

Face coverings still required at all times in indoor public places and events, unless eating or drinking.

At small gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required.

Effective Monday, May 10, large venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks permitted to increase capacity to 25%.

Plus:

- Some outdoor industries such as amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks operating at 50% capacity.
- Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional athletic events with staggered starts.
- Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments for moderate and high-risk sports.
- Singing indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

Effective May 29, gathering limits increased to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings

Plus:

- Street festivals, parades and agricultural festivals permitted, at 50% of their previous capacity.
- Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries and distilleries can open – subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90-minute limit and no dance floors.
- Eliminates requirement restaurants serve food with alcohol; and maximum table size increased to 10.

Effective August 1, remaining industries permitted to open, including:

- Dance clubs, and nightclubs; saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs and other facilities; indoor water parks; ball pits
- All industry restrictions lifted, and capacity increased to 100% for all industries, with businesses encouraged to continue following best practices. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

All or any of this, including the August 1 date, may be changed based on public health and vaccination data.

Click to read the [full press release](#).

Please note: At this time, the plans noted above do not affect current Southcoast requirements for masking, social distancing, size of gatherings, and other protocols for keeping patients and each other healthy and safe from COVID-19, including daily employee screening attestations.

FDA and CDC lift pause on Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine use following safety review

Based on CDC and FDA recommendations, Southcoast Health has resumed using the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to vaccinate employees and the public. The vaccine administered depends entirely on the vaccine type allotted to us by the state.

From the CDC:

Following a thorough safety review, including two meetings of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that the recommended pause regarding the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine in the U.S. should be lifted and use of the vaccine should resume." – CDC.

The two agencies have determined the following:

- Use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine should be resumed in the United States.
- The FDA and CDC have confidence that this vaccine is safe and effective in preventing COVID-19.
- The FDA has determined that the available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks in individuals 18 years of age and older.
- At this time, the available data suggest that the chance of TTS occurring is very low, but the FDA and CDC will remain vigilant in continuing to investigate this risk.
- Health care providers administering the vaccine and vaccine recipients or caregivers should review the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)external icon](#) and [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregiversexternal icon](#), which have been revised to include information about the risk of this syndrome, which has occurred in a very small number of people who have received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

Click to read [full April 23 press release](#).

**Vaccine appointments available for staff, patients, and general public –
Schedule now!**

Everyone over the age of 16 is now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Southcoast is continuing to hold vaccine clinics in Fall River (Liberal Club) and Dartmouth (Vanity Fair). Clinics are set up currently through May 5. As long the state continues to supply us with vaccine, we will continue vaccinating patients, employees and the public at large.

At the Fall River and Dartmouth clinics, we are administering Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer vaccine. The type depends on location and date.

For more information on our public clinics, including the type of vaccine being used at each clinic by date, visit www.southcoast.org/covid-19-vaccination.

Please be aware that the employee vaccine clinics at our hospitals (where we are administering the Moderna vaccine) are booked through June. **However, employees may get vaccinated at our public vaccine clinics in Fall River (Liberal Club) and Dartmouth (Vanity Fair) and soon to open Wareham (Town Multiservice Center).** Appointments can be scheduled easily through [online scheduling](#). You do not need to be a Southcoast patient to schedule an appointment.

We urge everyone to get vaccinated to lessen the risk of infection and community spread and to reduce severe illness and death in our community.

Please share information about Southcoast's vaccine clinics with your friends and family who have not been vaccinated!

Safe outdoor and indoor activities if fully vaccinated: CDC guidance

With vaccination comes the freedom – without the worry of severe illness – to do many of things we have all been avoiding these past many months during the pandemic. Below are CDC pictograms that show just how much life opens up to everyone once we are all vaccinated.

Outdoor Activities

Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People	Unvaccinated People
Walk, run, roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household		
Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends		
Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people		
Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households		
Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event		

Indoor Activities

Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People	Unvaccinated People
Visit a barber or hair salon		
Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum		
Ride public transport with limited occupancy		
Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households		
Go to an indoor movie theater		
Attend a full-capacity worship service		
Sing in an indoor chorus		
Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar		
Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class		

Stories from the #SouthcoastFrontlines: Thanking the Intensive and Critical Care teams (ICU/CCU/SICU) across Southcoast Health

Our third in a series of #SouthcoastFrontlines videos highlights the contributions of the Southcoast Intensive and Critical Care teams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the 2020 spring surge and even more intense winter surge, these teams were faced with an unpredictable virus that put their minds, bodies and spirits to the test.

Southcoast Health is grateful to all of our #SouthcoastFrontlines heroes and essential workers for remaining vigilant, prepared, and flexible while keeping our community safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Your commitment and courage, especially during times of crisis, define exceptional care from people who care. Thank you for modeling the way.

Click [here](#) or the image below to read about the Intensive and Critical Care teams (ICU/CCU/SICU) across Southcoast Health and view this informative and memorable video.



STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases

- As of April 30, we have 31 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – 4 of those patients are in Intensive Care Units.
- In addition, we currently have 6 patients under investigation (PUI) currently hospitalized across our system – with no PUI in ICU.

COVID-19 daily dashboards, generated by the Southcoast Analytics Team, are available [here](#).

Thank you, and be well.