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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Easthampton Board of Health Guidance and Requirements for: Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Convenient Stores, and all Essential Businesses Open to the Public:

On March 25, 2020, Governor Baker released an order pertaining to grocery stores and pharmacies who remain open as they are deemed essential. **In addition, the Easthampton Board of Health is requiring all convenient stores and essential businesses that remain open to the public adhere to the following requirements, if applicable, as well.**

It is imperative that business owners and managers follow these requirements and enforce them. As essential businesses, there is high foot traffic in your establishments including those who may be elderly, immunocompromised, and/or high-risk.

A copy of Governor Baker's order can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/grocery-and-pharmacy-store-order/download>

Overview of Governor Baker's order & additional requirements of the Easthampton BOH:

1. Grocery stores and pharmacies must provide alternative hours, at least one hour every day in the early morning, for adults 60 years and older in order to limit their potential exposure. These hours must be **conspicuously posted** and should be enforced by the owners of the establishments. (Convenient stores exempt)
2. Grocery stores, pharmacies, convenient stores, and all essential businesses open to the public must deploy strategies to reduce COVID-19 exposure for their customers and employees including but not limited to:
 - Access to handwashing facilities, including those available in public restrooms, and allowing employees sufficient break time to wash hands, as necessary.
 - Alcohol-based hand sanitizers, as available.
 - Disinfecting wipes, as available, at point of entrance for customers to disinfect carts, at cash registers, and/or other appropriate locations.

- Procedures to ensure that both employees and customers remain at least 6 feet apart at all times. Procedures should include a marked “social distancing line,” which begins 6 feet away from all checkout counters.
 - Closure of any salad bar or other self-serve prepared or other open food stations.
 - Elimination of any open free samples or tastings.
 - Procedures to sanitize frequent touchpoints throughout the day, including point of sale terminals and registers.
 - Employees who are sick should not report to work and if, when reporting to work, they have symptoms of COVID-19, they should be sent home.
3. Grocery stores, pharmacies, convenient stores, and essential businesses must accommodate employees who fall within the higher-risk populations, as defined by the CDC guidelines, with lower-exposure work assignments, or allowing them to stay home.
 4. Grocery stores shall be closed to the public for a sufficient time overnight to allow for stores to be properly sanitized and restocked.
 5. Employees shall not perform bagging of retail products if a customer presents a reusable bag. Note: reusable bags have been prohibited by this order. Therefore, stores shall post in a **conspicuous location** that customers shall not be using these bags.
 6. Stores may choose to use recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags, or single-use plastic bags.
 7. Stores may not assess a charge for recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags, or single-use plastic bags.
 8. Post signage, **in a conspicuous location**, alerting customers to use hand sanitizer, disinfecting cart wipes, or to wash their hands upon entering and where the location of each is located.
 9. Provide gloves for cashiers.
 10. Disinfect high-touch areas frequently throughout the day. Read the label of the disinfectant to ensure the minimum contact time is being completed. Some disinfectants have a contact time up to 10 minutes where the surface must remain wet and the disinfectant is NOT wiped off.
 11. Designate an employee to wash carts and basket handles after customer use.
 12. Do not allow customers to use reusable containers including but not limited to coffee cups, bulk item containers, etc.

13. Post two (2) signs provided by the Health Department at all entrances to the establishment:

- [https://easthamptonma.gov/images/Do Not Enter1.pdf](https://easthamptonma.gov/images/Do_Not_Enter1.pdf)
- [https://easthamptonma.gov/images/General Business Sign 1.pdf](https://easthamptonma.gov/images/General_Business_Sign_1.pdf)

14. Screen employees upon arrival to work. Screening questions should include:

- Are you experiencing a cough, fever, or shortness of breath?
- Have you recently been in contact with a positive COVID-19 case?

NOTE: If an employee answers yes to any of these questions, they should be **excluded** from work.

15. If an employee is positive for COVID-19, they are not allowed to return back to work until they have two negative tests, 24 hours apart, or until their fever is gone for three days without the use of fever reducing medicine.

16. If an employee has COVID-19 symptoms (a fever of 100.4 or greater and a cough or respiratory symptoms) but has not been tested, they should not return to work until they are completely symptom free.

17. If an employee has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has traveled to a level 3 country, then we encourage you to ask the employee to not come to work for 14 days and to self-quarantine.

- Level 3 countries:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notices.html>
- Information on self-quarantine:
[https://easthamptonma.gov/images/COVID19 Quarantine Guidance for Contacts.pdf](https://easthamptonma.gov/images/COVID19_Quarantine_Guidance_for_Contacts.pdf)

Gather information only from reliable sources such as:

- www.cdc.gov
- www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus
- www.easthamptonma.gov
- <https://easthamptonma.gov/health-department.html>
- www.facebook.com/easthampton413
- www.facebook.com/EasthamptonHealth

For specific questions, please email the Health Agent, Bri Eichstaedt at:
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