

COVID-19 Information for 32BJ Members and Families in Massachusetts

*****Information is changing rapidly. Visit state agency websites for the latest updates*****

Visit www.CDC.gov for the latest information on Covid-19 and what you can do to stay safe and help to prevent the spread

Gatherings of over 10 people are prohibited. This does not apply to grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, restaurant for take-out and delivery, airports, bus and train stations, or medical facilities. Parks will remain open.

Health

- All medical treatment and testing related to the treatment of COVID-19 is covered by medical insurance with no cost sharing or co-pays.
- Special Open Enrollment for health insurance is open for individuals who are not currently enrolled in an insurance plan until April 25.
- You can apply for Medicaid (AKA MassHealth) at <https://www.mahealthconnector.org/> or by phone 800-841-2900 (Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- MassHealth is allowing early refills and 90-day supply of medications.
- MA State Public Health Laboratory has opened drive-through testing centers. These sites are for patients that have symptoms of coronavirus and are in contact with a person who has coronavirus or traveling from a country where the outbreak reached severe levels. Some testing sites require an appointment and a prescription from a doctor.

Housing

- Housing Courts have been postponed non-emergency proceedings through April 21.
- If you need access to housing, call 617-635-4200 or email HOUSINGSTABILITY@boston.gov.
- If you need emergency housing, call 617-573-1106.

Transportation

- The MBTA has reduced service. More information is available at: www.mbta.com/covid19.

Utilities

- The Department of Public Utilities has extended a prohibition against electric and gas companies shutting off services until the order is lifted.



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Nutrition

- To apply for SNAP benefits go to: dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/.
- If you need access to food, you can call 617-635-3717 or email FOOD@boston.gov. More information is available at www.boston.gov/departments/food-access or www.projectbread.org/get-help/.
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a nutrition program for pregnant women, new mom, breastfeeding women, or children under age 5. WIC is working to ensure that that infant formula is available in stores. To apply for WIC benefits go to: www.mass.gov/forms/apply-for-wic-online or call 1-800-942-1007 weekdays Monday through Friday 9am – 5pm.

Schools and Childcare

- All K-12 schools and early childcare have been closed until at least April 6. Boston Public Schools will be closed until April 27.
- A list and map of meal services for children and youth is available at: www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-meal-sites-boston.
- For more information on Boston Public Schools, remote learning, free breakfast & lunch locations, or to request a Chromebook, go to: www.bostonpublicschools.org/coronavirus
- Emergency childcare programs are available for essential personnel. Priority is given to health care workers, grocery store employees, emergency response personnel, law enforcement, infrastructure workers, sanitation workers, DCF families, and families in shelters. The program is available for families after all other non-group care settings have been exhausted. Exempt Emergency Child Care Programs is available at: eeced.force.com/apex/EEC_ChildCareEmergencyProcedure.

Charities

- If you need access to the Internet: www.boston.gov/news/internet-connectivity-and-technology-supports-during-covid-19-response.

For further information:

- Visit the City of Boston's www.boston.gov/news/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-boston.
- Call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Text BOSCOVID to 99411
- Call Boston 2-1-1 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- Information for immigrants: the federal government said it will not consider testing, treatment, or preventive care related to COVID-19 as part of their public charge determination.

