

An Update: March 12, 2020

Governor Baker Declares a State of Emergency in Massachusetts

At a press conference yesterday, Gov. Charlie Baker declared a [State of Emergency in Massachusetts](#) due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases across the Commonwealth. The Governor directed Executive Branch employees to help limit the spread of the virus. Municipalities may wish to mirror these recommendations:

- Cancel or hold virtually any conferences, seminars and other discretionary gatherings
- Tell employees not to attend external work-related conferences, seminars or events
- Remind employees who are feeling sick with fever or flu symptoms not to come into work
- Encourage high-risk employees to talk with their supervisors to review possible alternative work assignments
- Discontinue all out-of-state work-related travel

The Governor said, “I urge employers and other large organizations to follow our example and limit or eliminate non-essential travel, limit or eliminate large events where possible, and explore telework where appropriate for your organization. We are also urging older adults and those with health issues to avoid large crowds and large events.”

Read the [Governor’s press release](#) here, and other COVID-19 related resources can be found on these sites:

- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)