

## **Governor Announces Transition in Reopening Plan for all Municipalities**

**February 26, 2021**

### **TRANSITIONING TO PHASE III, STEP 2 AND PHASE IV OF THE REOPENING PLAN FOR ALL COMMUNITIES**

On February 25, 2021, Governor Baker announced that all municipalities in the Commonwealth, businesses, and other organizations will transition to Phase III, Step 2 and Phase IV of the Commonwealth's Reopening Plan.

Effective March 1, 2021, businesses and organizations designated as Phase III, Step 2 enterprises may open their brick-and-mortar premises to workers, customers, and the public. Pursuant to the Governor's COVID-19 Order No. 65, issued February 25, 2021, the following enterprises will be permitted to open to the public:

- Indoor performance venues uses for live performances such as concert halls, theaters, and other indoor performance spaces not designated as Phase IV enterprises; and
- Indoor recreational activities with greater potential for contact: laser tag, roller skating, trampolines, [and] obstacles course.

The Department of Labor Standards will issue sector-specific COVID-19 workplace safety rules for Phase III, Step 2 enterprises permitted to open their brick-and-mortar premises. These sector-safety rules may also provide for increased capacity and other adjustments for Phase I, II, and III enterprises. Notably, it has been reported that the capacity limits for all open businesses will increase to 50%, from 40%.

The Governor has also announced a transition to Phase IV, Step 1 of the Commonwealth's Reopening Plan, effective March 22, 2021. While the Governor has yet to issue a formal COVID-19 Order regarding the transition to Phase IV, Step 1, it is expected that the following enterprises will be permitted to open to the public:

- Stadiums, arenas, and ballparks, and other large capacity venues (indoor and outdoor) use for spectator sports, entertainment, or similar performances;
- Exhibition and convention halls;
- Overnight camps (Summer 2021); and
- Dance floors at events only.

Enterprises designated as Phase IV, Step 2, including, but not limited to, amusement parks, health clubs, bars, dance clubs, beer gardens/breweries not providing seated food service, parades, and road races, will continue to be closed.

Lastly, while no official COVID-19 Order has been issued, it has been reported that effective March 22, 2021, gathering size limits at event venues will be relaxed to accommodate up to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors, while private gatherings in people's homes and backyard will remain limited to 25 people outdoors and 10 people indoors.

We will keep you informed as additional information becomes available regarding the Phase IV transition and updated gathering limits.

Please contact your KP Law attorney if you have further questions. In the meantime, from all of the staff and attorneys at KP Law, be safe and take good care.

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