



**CITY OF LAWRENCE**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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DANIEL RIVERA  
MAYOR & CEO

**PRESS ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**

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**City of Lawrence Phase 2 Restaurant Guidance**

**May 29, 2020, Lawrence, MA-** As part of the Commonwealth's planning for a safe transition to Phase 2, it released restaurant guidance along with lodging guidance on Friday 5/29/2020. The Commonwealth expects to make a decision on when Phase 2 will start on Saturday June 6th, 2020.

The fact remains while the State Public Health numbers are trending in the right direction, the City of Lawrence is still fighting the Coronavirus. As of 5/27/2020, the City of Lawrence is 3rd per capita in virus infection and 5th in total infections, with a low rate of testing (despite our efforts, still less than 200 people tested per day); the City's percentage of people testing positive is 28.9%- the 4<sup>th</sup> highest positive percentage in the State. It is clear to me that we are not as prepared as other communities to move into Phase 2.

To that end, we will await the Commonwealth's guidance on moving into phase 2, but we will be rolling out our own guidance in conjunction with the Lawrence Board of Health, specific to restaurants. We expect to announce this guidance on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This means that restaurants should not plan to open June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, but rather, expect guidance from the City on next steps to prepare for eventual opening.

We encourage all businesses to continue to check the State Re-opening website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts> for preparing their business to open when the public health numbers improve and the commonwealth moves to their industry's phase.

We know this is an incredible hardship to all our businesses, but the amount of death and sickness that has hit our City warrants an opening approach that is in line with the Commonwealth but at pace based on our current place in the fight against the virus.

Any businesses that have questions or concerns should call the LAWRENCE BUSINESS SUPPORT HOTLINE 978-291-8106 or email [business@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:business@cityoflawrence.com) or [negocios@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:negocios@cityoflawrence.com) , and review the attached COVID19 Business Guide.

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