**Gov. Baker To Lift COVID Restrictions, Mask Mandate On May 29**

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Gov. Charlie Baker said the state is on track to meet its vaccination goal by June.

**Video Transcript**

GOV. CHARLIE BAKER: So, good morning. 364 days ago, this team stood here and laid out how Massachusetts is going to reopen the economy one step at a time. It was a major step forward after several long months of despair. Back then, effective vaccines were just an idea. About seven months after that, when the vaccine became a reality in December, we laid out how Massachusetts would vaccinate 4.1 million people by this spring.

Today, Massachusetts leads the nation in vaccinations, and we're on track to meet the goal that we set for ourselves back in December. Over 3.2 million people in Massachusetts are fully vaccinated, and over 4 million people, 75% of all adults, have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Virtually, all of our residents who got a first dose return for their second, which is why we're confident that our goal of vaccinating 4.1 million people here in the Commonwealth will be achieved in early June.

We said since day one that we'll get through this together because the people of Massachusetts are strong, kind, and willing to sacrifice to help their neighbor. Today, more than ever, we know that's the truth. Massachusetts is effectively battling back in its campaign against the virus. Nearly every student in the state is back in the classroom, and we've reopened nearly every industry.

We're safer, smarter, and better equipped in this fight than any time since it began. And thanks to all your work, we're willing to take the next step forward together. Effective May 29, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will lift all industry COVID restrictions and capacity limits.

Massachusetts is on track to reach its goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by early June, and this level of protection makes this step possible for the people of the Commonwealth. The science shows that vaccinated people are well-protected against the virus and unlikely to spread COVID. Effective May 29, the face-covering order will also be rescinded and will be replaced by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

At that time, the Department of Public Health will issue a public health advisory urging all unvaccinated residents to wear face coverings in most indoor settings. The Department will advise all vaccinated residents that it's safe to go back to doing the things we all used to do before this pandemic, consistent with the CDC's new guidance. The Department of Public Health will also be issuing a new public health order that will mandate the use of face coverings by everyone, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, in a small number of specific places such as nursing homes, health care settings, public transportation, and in schools, again, consistent with CDC's guidance.

We'll also end the current state of emergency on June 15. We have a lot of work to do between now and the end of the month transitioning out of the current state of affairs, but none of that work is more important than carrying out Massachusetts national leading vaccination effort. We'll continue knocking on doors, making calls, setting up pop-up sites, and doing everything we can to expand access to vaccine.