



September 17, 2020

Good Morning,

Thank you for tuning into our tenth webinar session this morning, and thanks to our hotel partners Eduardo Fernandez, Trish Berry and Jon Crellin for joining the panel along with GBCVB Board Chairman Dan Donahue. Please access the webinar recording [here](#). The discussion was both sobering and hopeful, which is the outlook we've tried to impart throughout this crisis; it is unprecedented in scale and impact, yet we know how resilient and innovative the Boston economy is and the hospitality sector certainly exemplifies that spirit of pioneering perseverance.

We were pleased this week to hear that the Baker Administration will [extend the tax relief](#) deferral for local businesses in Massachusetts. This includes sales tax, meals tax and room occupancy taxes collected between March 2020 and April 2021.

We heard back from the Administration recently on an important topic that has come up a few times now – whether religious functions that take place in a hotel are subject to hotel gathering restrictions, or whether the less restrictive “places of worship” rules supersede the hotel limits. We can confirm it is the latter: Religious services taking place in nontraditional locations, such as hotel ballrooms or theaters, are to follow the [Places of Worship](#) protocols. Capacity must be limited to 50% of the space's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy permit. No enclosed space may exceed occupancy of 10 persons per 1,000 square feet. Please advise if you have further questions on this matter, or if we can help to clarify any other grey areas.

The Bureau has launched a dedicated Landing Page for the [#MyLocalMA](#) campaign. We are directly engaged with Chambers of Commerce and other small business development and advocacy entities throughout our Regional Tourism Council to create content for this page. The page includes an image gallery, events carousel, blog section, and links to every Chamber in our region.

We are excited to be collaborating directly with the 45 cities and towns that comprise our region. Once this page is fleshed out a bit more we will leverage our platforms, notably via social media campaigns, to reach a broad audience and inspire local and regional residents to concentrate the investment of their dollars into their communities.

We've partnered with the City of Boston and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce to devise a ["Boston Safe & Strong" pledge](#) that you will be hearing a lot more about in the coming days as we launch the campaign. We will be issuing a press release early next week and hope to join Mayor Walsh and Chamber President & CEO Jim Rooney at a press conference announcing the initiative. While primarily aimed at businesses, the pledge also encourages guests and the public to comply with a series of public health measures that are proven to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

We continue to do all of this on behalf of our members, our industry, and our region. We will share a registration link soon for our October Open House and we look forward to updating you on all of our ongoing initiatives. We are here for you.

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