Happy Memorial Day.  I hope that you and your families are healthy and well!  On May 18, 2020 Governor Baker released some guidelines regarding reopening the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as of today, beaches are officially open.  Massachusetts is now in Phase 1 of a 4 Phase recovery/reopening program and they have issued guidance for the use of beach areas, which the Oak Bluffs Board of Health has endorsed.  Please note there is currently a 14 day self-quarantine period for those traveling to Massachusetts from other states or countries.

The ECBC Board of Directors met via Zoom video conference (see attached) on Saturday to discuss and finalize our approach to the 2020 season.  Our priorities are to:

1. Maintain a safe environment for members and staff by reducing risks of virus transmission.
2. Meet or exceed Massachusetts and Oak Bluffs requirements to avoid any sanctions.
3. Provide as close to a ‘normal’ Beach Club experience as possible.

With those goals in mind, we are issuing the following rules for the 2020 season.  We are asking that all members familiarize themselves with these changes and take responsibility for themselves and their families to ensure they are followed.  If these rules are not being followed closely, you may be asked to leave the beach.  In addition, we may need to revise this list as the Summer progresses.

**Effective immediately:**

* **All Social events are cancelled thru the end of July.**This includes both member and rental activities.  Large gatherings will be one of the last phases of social distancing to be allowed.  This unfortunately includes the (new) Member Welcome party, July 4th, August fireworks, Membership meetings and all other social events.
* **The beach is generally available for members provided that you follow the club's social distancing guidelines (see below).**
* **Members SHOULD NOT come to the beach if they are experiencing any cold or flu symptoms, have a fever or have any reason to believe they have been exposed.**
* **There are no (non-family) guests allowed.**
In order to maintain a beach capacity that meets social distancing requirements, we need to prioritize access for members.  Only family members who are currently residing with you in your home can be checked-in as a guest.
* **The staff will be monitoring attendance and may need to turn members away if beach capacity is exceeded.**
This is highly unlikely; we have plenty of space to stretch out.
* **These rules are effective immediately and apply to anyone using the beach now and for the rest of the season.**

**Social Distancing Guidelines for 2020:**

* Members are responsible for reading, understanding and closely following these guidelines.  It is critical that each member take responsibility for themselves and their families.  Members who do not follow these guidelines and therefore present a heightened risk to other members may be asked to leave.
* Members are required to wear a mask when entering and exiting the club and anywhere on the boardwalk.
* Members can sit on the beach in groups of 10 or less people.
* Groups and their belongings must stay at least 12 feet from any neighboring groups.
* When using the water or pier, you must stay at least 6 feet away from other people. Masks are not required in the water or on the pier.

**PLEASE NOTE:**These guidelines are subject to change and are pending further guidance from state and local authorities.  If you have any questions you can speak to our staff.

The club is currently open but not staffed until June 26th.  The water is turned on, lockers are available to those who rent them.  The pier will be ready mid-June.  The ECBC staff will be performing regular sanitization of high touch surfaces and extensive cleaning once per day.  We expect the snack bar will be opening on June 26th.  You must observe social distancing while ordering.  Some tables will be provided but members are encouraged to eat in their groups on the beach. We will provide a designated, low traffic area for members who are at higher risk for COVID-19.

The Board has made a concerted effort to maintain a “normal” club experience during these unprecedented times, however these measures are necessary for members to enjoy the beach safely.  We welcome any feedback.  Thank you for your help.

Matt Nerney
President ECBC

If you have questions or feedback, you can call the club at **508-693-0630** or send an email to myself or the club manager, Angela Luckey:

Club Manager - ecbc@eastchopbeachclub.com
Matt Nerney – matt.nerney@gmail.com

**Additional Resources:**

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/beaches-guidance-for-managers-5-18-20/download>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-four-phase-approach>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-18-2020-expanded-beach-access/download>