

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Options Available to Report on COVID-19 Rulebreakers

When the state rolls out new guidance and regulations for reopening businesses, it's up to local health officials to make sure the rules are being followed to keep workers and customers safe. On Monday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced ways that everyday citizens can involve themselves in the enforcement of health and safety guidelines by reporting businesses they think are not adhering to the state's rules. "Our success on the reopening piece will be driven in many ways by compliance with the workforce safety standards that have been developed ... We're grateful that thousands of businesses and organizations are doing their part to implement the reopening guidance that's been made available, people are working hard to cooperate and be creative," he said during a press conference Monday. "But if folks believe that a business or an employer is not observing the safety guidelines, we set up a process for people in the public, or employees, to reach out and communicate that." Reports can be filed by going to www.mass.gov/compliance and following directions to send information to a local board of health or to the Department of Labor Standards via a hotline at (508) 616-0461 ext. 9488 or by email to safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov. Callers to the state's 211 COVID-19 hotline can also report non-compliance, Baker said. If a report warrants an investigation, the Department of Labor Standards will contact the complainant within 72 hours and then work with the local board of health to investigate, the administration said. "We know everybody's working hard to be safe and create the best new normal we can with COVID-19 and we are deeply grateful for the cooperation of our employer community and so many others, and we hope this tool can help promote accountability as we continue to reopen Massachusetts," the governor said. - Colin A. Young/SHNS

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