



Statement to Families & Students Regarding *COVID-19 and Boys State 2021 (updated May 25, 2021 – subject to change)

While not exhaustive or meant to serve as a full operating plan, this statement aims to inform and remind our full learning community of critical steps with which all must comply for our program this year.

**Wherever the term “COVID-19” is used, we are referring to the disease identified as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and the health conditions it causes through contraction of the novel coronavirus.*

American Legion Massachusetts Boys State 2021 will convene on the campus of Stonehill College in Easton, MA June 12 – June 18 this year.

The American Legion and the program staff have monitored guidance and regulations issued by appropriate agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, special orders and declarations by the Office of the Governor, and the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) as well as other relevant federal agencies. The policies and procedures of our host campus, Stonehill College, also govern elements of our program.

- We appreciate that every individual’s actual/sense of risk, sense of safety, and sense of concern varies based on a variety of factors. With appreciation for these differences, there are mitigation efforts we have chosen to take, and in some cases are required to take. It is essential that certain steps are followed to ensure your student is able to attend and fully participate in this year’s program, and to protect your student, as well as other students and staff, to the extent possible, from COVID exposure and/or infection.
- We strongly encourage all families to vaccinate their student against COVID-19, if eligible, with one of the vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the FDA, in consultation with their healthcare provider.
- No organization or set of protocols can guarantee that students, staff or visitors will not become exposed to COVID-19. By attending or choosing to send your student to Boys State, you are acknowledging that even with reasonable containment efforts:
 - COVID-19 is contagious and believed to spread primarily through person-to-person contact;
 - exposure is possible;
 - that you have granted consent and the student will comply with all protocols deemed appropriate by the program leadership, public health officials, and/or the College (including vaccination records and/or PCR testing, mask requirements, physical distancing, health screening questions, etc.);
 - should your student test positive during the program, a parent, legal guardian, or other appropriate, responsible adult can and will bring them home early and promptly to quarantine.
- No student will be allowed to check-in for the program without either:
 - **A** - *documentation of full vaccination* (defined as two weeks after their 2nd dose in a 2-dose series such as Pfizer or Moderna, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen), **OR**
 - **B** – proof of a negative PCR test administered in the 72 hours prior to arrival on-campus.
- If your student or any member of your household is not feeling well AND your student is not vaccinated, do not come to the Stonehill campus or attempt to check-in for the program. If you are unsure, we suggest use of the CDC’s Coronavirus Self-Checker here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/coronavirus-self-checker.html>