MTF presentation to the Re-Opening Advisory Board

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President
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Our mission is to provide accurate, unbiased research with balanced, thoughtful recommendations that strengthen the state's finances and economy in order to foster the long-term well-being of the Commonwealth.

Mission Statement

Founded in 1932, the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit research organization that serves as the independent source of information for the Commonwealth’s decision-makers.

MTF Awards
I. Industry Level Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

• Current Readiness:
  ▪ Differs by industry sector and size company
I. Industry Level Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

• Barriers:

1. Health concerns
   • COVID-19 Testing
   • Screening
   • Tracing

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
3. Transportation
4. Childcare
5. Liability
6. Logistics
I. Industry Level  Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

• Critical Enablers:
  
  • Federal guidance whenever possible
    • One set of rules for companies operating in multiple jurisdictions
  
  • Flexibility for small businesses
  
  • Implementation of Safe Harbor provisions during pandemic for HIPPA, Discrimination and other-related statutes
  
  • Allowing Childcare providers to re-open
  
  • Adequate availability of PPE
  
  • Coordination of tracing among employers
I. Industry Level  Readiness, Barriers and Enablers

• Enforcement and Inspection Mechanisms:
II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

• Alterations to Workspace over 3-6-12 months
  
  • Increased remote working
  • Reconfiguration of office space
  • Less business travel
  • More investment in IT as use of technology for remote gatherings increases
  • Ensuring employees are comfortable returning to the workplace before requiring it
  • Logistics of moving people, i.e. Elevators and social distancing, i.e. lunch rooms
II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

• Industry Playbook?

  • MTF represents many different industry sectors so no one playbook

  • Common themes:
    • Gradual reopening
    • Employee and customer health concerns
II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

What Orders, Regulations and Statutes are Critical?

• Clear delineation of responsibility for testing, screening, PPE.

• Making sure that UI and family leave policies are not overly generous so that they discourage return to work.

• Clarification around how remote workers will impact a corporation’s nexus with the Commonwealth.
II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

• How much advance notice would your industry need?
• Different notice requirements for different size businesses

  • Those that are operating successfully remotely – white-collar, professional service firms or corporate staff - are in no hurry to require workers to return to the office.

  • Small businesses in the retail or restaurant sector would like to open as soon as possible with clear guidance on what is expected and clear parameters around liability
II. Industry Re-Open Preparation and Support

• Data or Metrics to Understand trends/health impacts?
Thank you!

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