

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Norfolk County

Massachusetts · Dedham · FIPS 25021 · Population 722,112 ·
Crosodo Index #2605*

STATE BASELINE

105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit)

STATE TIER

Okay

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

MASSACHUSETTS: NORFOLK COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2605* · FIPS 25021 · Dedham

Norfolk County

Population 722,112 · State baseline: 105 CMR 590.009(D) (Massachusetts Residential Kitchen Permit)

· MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Each of Norfolk County’s 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No statewide sales cap. Food safety training recommended; some local Boards require it.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies by city (Each of Norfolk County’s 28 municipalities (Dedham, Quincy, Braintree, Brookline, Milton, Needham, Wellesley, etc.) has its own Board of Health and zoning code. Contact the specific city/town Board of Health for permit details. No county-level government with permit authority in Massachusetts.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Initial kitchen inspection required. Subsequent inspections at Board of Health discretion.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Each of Norfolk County’s 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No statewide sales cap. Food safety training recommended; some local Boards require it.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; well users may face additional testing
HANDWASHING	Required as part of kitchen inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Initial kitchen inspection required. Subsequent inspections at Board of Health discretion.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city — Each of Norfolk County’s 28 municipalities (Dedham, Quincy, Braintree, Brookline, Milton, Needham, Wellesley, etc.) has its own Board of Health and zoning code. Contact the specific city/town Board of Health for permit details. No county-level government with permit authority in Massachusetts.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Unknown

Relevant county code

105 CMR 590.009(D); local Board of Health regulations

RESEARCH NOTES

Norfolk County has no county-level government with land use authority. Each of 28 municipalities administers its own residential kitchen permit. Notable cities include Quincy, Brookline, Braintree, Needham, and Wellesley. The norfolkcounty.org website is primarily for the Registry of Deeds and courts, not for planning or health permits.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.norfolkcounty.org>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/norfolk-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Norfolk County	Suffolk County	Worcester County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets typically excluded from food preparation areas	Pets excluded from food preparation areas per Board of Health requirements	Standard sanitation; pets excluded from food preparation areas during production is typically required
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited.	Sales from home, events, farmers markets, and retail stores permitted. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited under residential kitchen...	No statewide cap. Sales allowed from home, at events, farmers markets, and to retail stores. Mail order prohibited. Catering prohibited und...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Varies by city	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Each of Norfolk County's 28 municipalities administers its own Board of Health residential kitchen permit. Kitchen inspection required. No ...	Suffolk County includes the City of Boston and three other cities (Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop). Each administers its own Board of Health. Bo...	Massachusetts uses a residential kitchen model — home kitchen treated as food establishment requiring a local Board of Health permit and ki...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit	Standard food storage per residential kitchen permit requirements
POPULATION	722,112	785,443	858,898

State context — Massachusetts cottage food law

Norfolk County’s rules sit on top of Massachusetts’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE 105 CMR 590.009(D)	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Recommended
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Yes — Massachusetts residential kitchens are treated as food establishments, so permitted operators may sell at any venue within the state including restaurants and retail stores, without the wholesale restriction that most cottage food laws impose. Mail order and catering are prohibited. Local boards of health administer permits and may impose additional restrictions.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Massachusetts cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/105-CMR-59000-state-sanitary-code-chapter-x>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/residential-kitchen-permit-information>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/massachusetts/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Norfolk County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/massachusetts/norfolk-county-discuss>
