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WORCESTER COUNTY WONDERS



At Dinky's Blue Belle Diner in Shrewsbury, Rocco Hester, 19, who was working behind the counter, talks with Bob Claflin, 87, of Shrewsbury. Claflin was the diner's first cook 30 years ago. He has been eating at Dinky's most every day. PHOTOS BY ALLAN JUNG/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

SMALL WONDER

A 'not-so-dinky breakfast' at Dinky's Blue Belle Diner

Sarah Barnacle Worcester Telegram & Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

More than three decades after Bruce Trotto's father first put eyes on his restaurant, describing it as a "little dinky place," Dinky's Blue Belle Diner is anything but.

- "It's funny, when I told my mother about the name, you know I had a bunch," Trotto said. "We actually tossed the name out. Then a few weeks later she called me and said, 'You know, that name is definitely growing on me.'"

Taking a seat at one of the only empty booths, waitress Shelley Osper shouts, "Make yourself at home, I'll be right with you," before heading to the table with

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Dinky's Blue Belle Diner owner Bruce Trotto, who eats at his restaurant just about every day, holds his coffee cup up for a refill.

Healey approves COVID booster

Pharmacies can provide shots to all over age 5

Henry Schwan
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Maura Healey didn't wait for the federal government to authorize this season's COVID-19 booster shot. She green-lighted it for anyone in Massachusetts older than 5.

A formal announcement came Thursday, Sept. 4, and residents eligible to get the booster and other vaccines approved by Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Dr. Robert Goldstein can start scheduling appointments with pharmacies on Friday, Sept. 5, according to Healey.

Insurance will cover the cost of boosters, officials said.

Goldstein noted the state's public health department hasn't put out vaccine recommendations for the 2025-26 season, so the state's current ones apply. They include a COVID vaccine for anyone six months and older who is eligible for the shot.



Healey

During a press conference attended by Healey, Goldstein and the state's top health leaders, the governor laid out three steps to ensure Massachusetts residents have access to the vaccines, despite what she termed irresponsible actions taken by the Trump administration and health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

"We're not going to let Trump and Kennedy get in the way of patients getting the care, the treatments and the medicines that they need and want," said Healey.

First, two state agencies, the Division of Insurance and public health department, are requiring that insurance companies doing business in Massachusetts continue covering vaccines recommended by state health officials, and not rely solely on CDC recommendations.

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Cursing at a sports game could cost you \$50 under law

Margie Cullen
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

You better watch your emotions at Gillette Stadium – cursing at players or officials is against the law in Massachusetts.

That's right: technically, you could be

fined up to \$50 for cursing at a participant or official at a sporting event under Massachusetts law.

It's one of many antiquated laws still on the books in Massachusetts. Others include a ban on scaring pigeons and a fine for publicly butchering the "Star Spangled Banner."

Luckily, these days you're unlikely to be prosecuted for those offenses, and free speech generally protects cursing at sports games. However, you should still control your language: fans do occasionally get ejected from games for heckling players beyond what is appropriate.

What is the law against cursing in Massachusetts?

Chapter 272, Section 36A of the Massachusetts General Laws bans anyone over 16 from cursing at sports events.

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