

Thursday, April 22, 2021

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

The Command Center Situation Report is published weekly. The next report will be published on Thursday, 4/29/21.



Today, Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito visited the vaccination site at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield. The site is run by the Berkshire Regional Collaborative and its clinical partner Berkshire Health Systems. Berkshire County was one of the first places in Massachusetts to establish a regional collaborative and its efforts have resulted in an efficient distribute of vaccine over a wide geographic area.

In This Week's Report:

- Latest Data: Public Health & Vaccine Data Update
- Week in Review: Key State Actions
 - All Individuals 16+ Now Eligible for Vaccine
 - Administration Launches New Ads for Vaccine Public Awareness Campaign
 - Red Sox Week at the Hynes Kicks Off to Promote COVID-19 Vaccination
 - Long-Term Care Vaccination & Visitation FAQ Released
 - DPH, Emergency Management, and Disaster Recovery Updates
 - Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Weekly Update

Helpful Links:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts](#)
- [FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance](#)
- [Public Messaging Resources for Municipalities & Businesses](#)
- [Mass.gov/findfoodhelp](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)



Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts **current as of 4/22**

636,476 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

17,168 Deaths among confirmed cases

20,701,850 tests for the virus conducted to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals, and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 4/22**

Case numbers are updated regularly at noon. Saturday/Sunday reports are preliminary and have not been confirmed with state/territorial health departments.

Total Cases Reported to CDC:

31,666,546 Total Cases

566,494 Deaths

57 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, American Samoa, and US V.I.)

Social Distancing Basics:

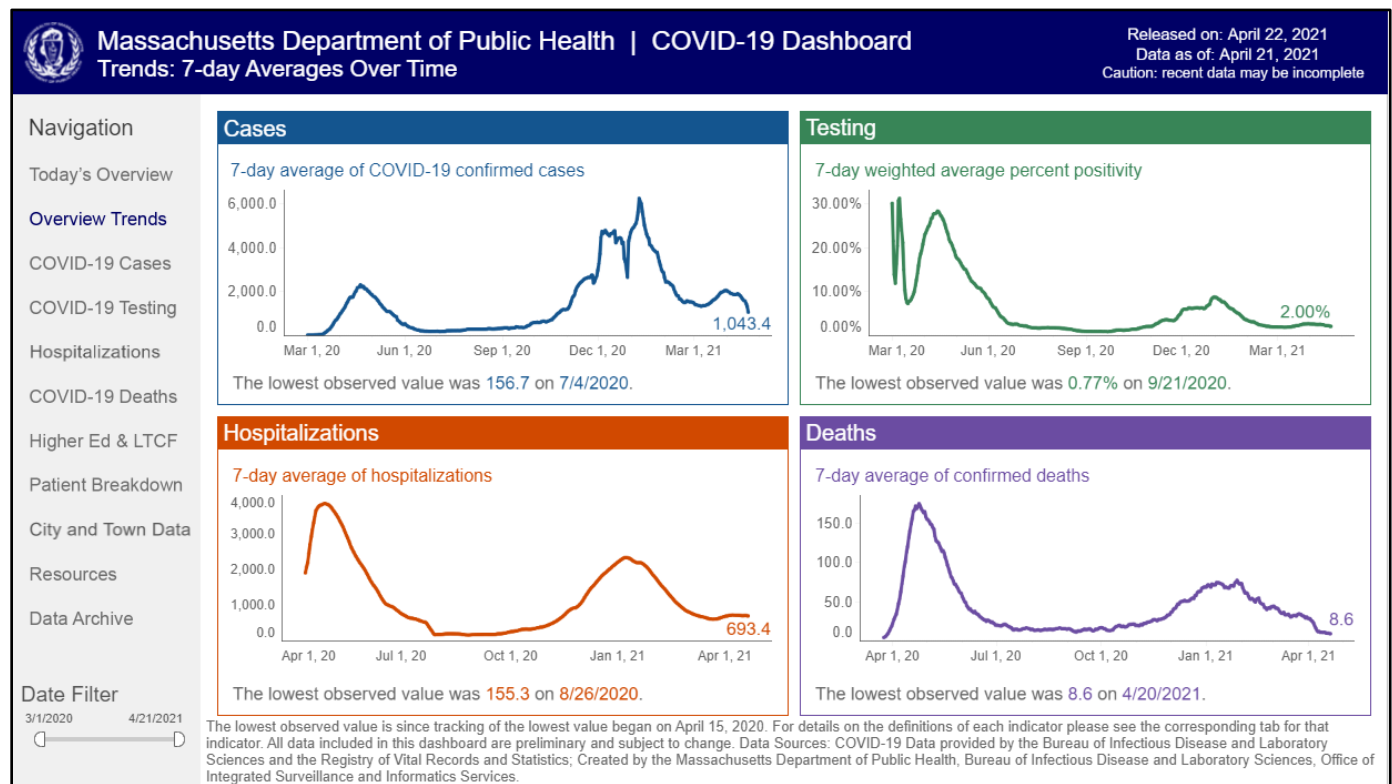
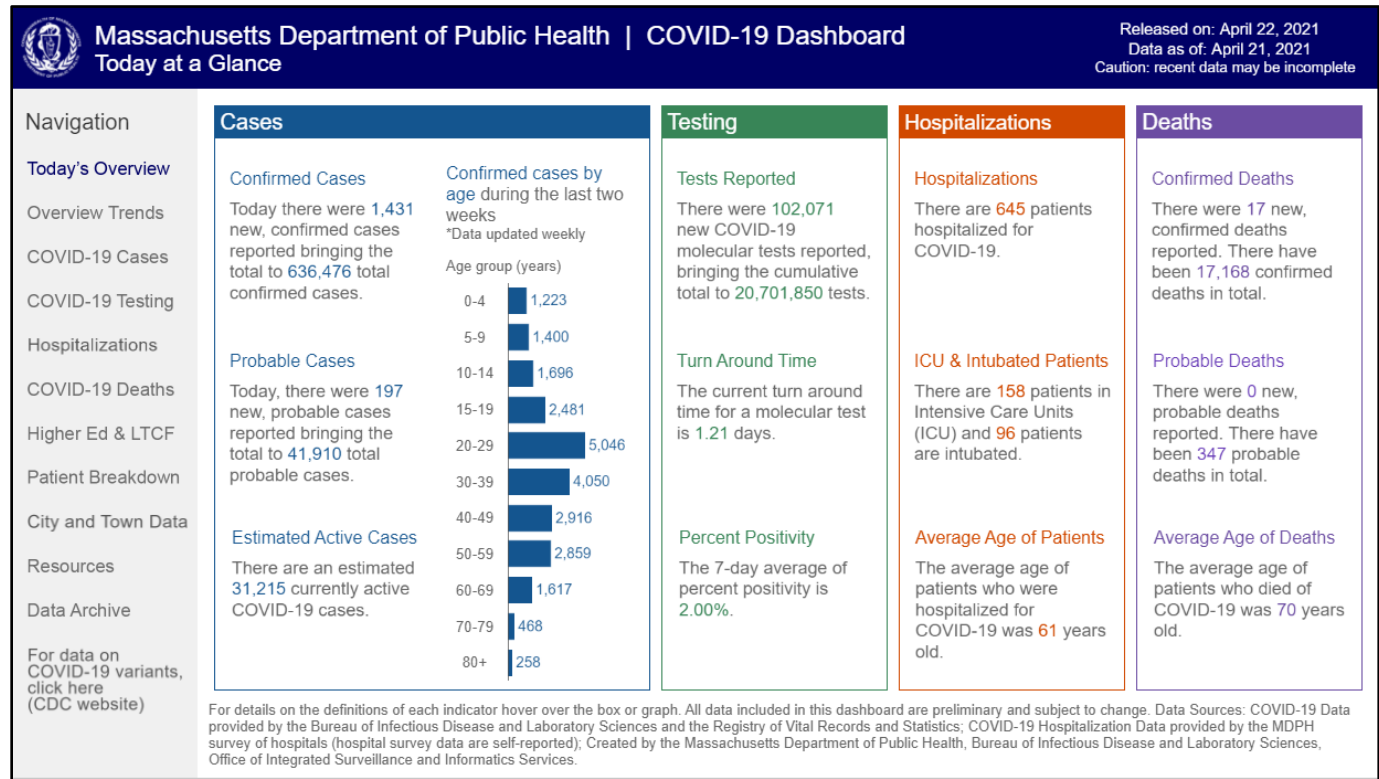
- ✓ Stay Home
- ✓ Call/Facetime/online chat with friends and loved ones.

If you go out for essential needs:

- ✓ Avoid crowds
- ✓ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ✓ Don't shake hands or hug
- ✓ Wear a face covering or mask.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Latest Data: COVID-19 Public Health Update



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Weekly Public Health Report:

The Command Center released the [Weekly Public Health Report](#) on Thursday, 4/22. The report primarily includes information related to cases and inspection data for Long Term Care Facilities. Data previously included in the Weekly Report, including town-level data, contact tracing information (including active COVID cluster information by Exposure Setting Type), are now presented in the [Daily Interactive Dashboard](#).

Vaccine Update: For a more detailed weekly breakdown, [visit the MA COVID-19 Vaccination Data webpage](#).

	4/16	4/17	4/18	4/19	4/20	4/21	4/22
DOSES SHIPPED							
Doses Shipped to MA Providers (MIIS)*	3,999,805	4,036,745	4,036,745	4,036,745	4,036,745	4,294,925	4,387,985
Doses Shipped to Pharmacies and Directly by the Federal Government - Including FPPP Providers (Tiberius)	1,784,895	1,784,895	1,871,475	1,874,875	1,912,695	1,975,295	2,077,185
Grand Total Shipped to MA	5,784,700	5,821,640	5,908,220	5,911,620	5,949,440	6,270,220	6,465,170
DOSES ADMINISTERED (MIIS)*							
1st Moderna or Pfizer Doses Administered # of people with at least one dose	2,963,999	3,007,861	3,041,808	3,070,971	3,113,812	3,166,870	3,216,855
2nd Moderna or Pfizer Doses Administered # of people fully vaccinated	1,756,466	1,800,094	1,835,912	1,857,543	1,892,492	1,932,608	1,976,054
Janssen (J&J) Doses Administered (MIIS) # of people fully vaccinated	201,115	201,657	201,882	201,944	203,316	203,527	204,143
Grand Total Doses Administered (MIIS)	4,921,580	5,009,612	5,079,602	5,130,458	5,209,620	5,303,005	5,397,052
Grand Total Fully Vaccinated People with Existing COVID-19 Vaccines**	1,957,581	2,001,751	2,037,794	2,059,487	2,095,808	2,136,135	2,180,197
% of Total Doses Shipped That Have Been Reported as Administered	85.1%	86.1%	86.0%	86.8%	87.6%	84.6%	83.5%

*Data from the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) are as of midnight the night before.

**Fully vaccinated people have 2 doses of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or 1 dose of Janssen (J&J) vaccine

MA Dose Allocation Update:

This week, the Commonwealth received 348,220 first and second doses as part of the state allocation. These figures do not include doses provided directly from the federal government to the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) or Community Vaccination Center (CVC).

This week, first dose and second dose state allocations (total doses), were distributed among providers as follows:

- Health systems and health care providers (excluding community health centers): 122,040
- Regional Collaboratives and Local Boards of Health: 76,360
- Mass vaccination locations: 122,040
- Community Health Centers state allocation only: 21,180
- Retail pharmacies (non-CVS) state allocation only: 4,500
- Mobile Clinics supporting long-term care facilities, congregate care, affordable/low-income senior housing, and homebound individuals: 1,900

Weekly allocations are subject to change based on federal availability, demand from providers, and obligations to meet second doses. Providers have 10 days to use their doses and must meet specific performance thresholds.

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Federal Doses: In addition to the state allocation, the federal government has increased its distribution of vaccines to CVS Health sites as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership as well as to certain Massachusetts federally qualified community health centers. These quantities fluctuate on a weekly basis and are not counted as part of the state's weekly allocation but represent an increasing allocation to selected locations.

- This week, 119,410 first and second doses were allocated to the retail pharmacy program.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers received 69,530 doses directly from the Federal Government.
- The mass vaccination site at the Hynes Convention Center run in partnership with FEMA was allocated 42,120 doses.

Week in Review: State Actions

All Individuals 16+ Now Eligible for Vaccine:

On Monday, April 19th, individuals 16 and older became eligible to receive vaccine at any of the Commonwealth's over 300 public vaccination locations. With this group, 1.7 million additional residents are now eligible for vaccine in the Commonwealth. Individuals seeking appointments at mass vaccination sites are able to preregister for vaccine appointments at mass.gov/COVIDVaccine. Several regional collaboratives are also on the preregistration system. An individual who preregisters can still seek appointments at other sites including pharmacies, community health centers, or their healthcare provider.

Due to limited supply of vaccines from the federal government, individuals seeking appointments should anticipate that it may take several weeks to get an appointment.

This past weekend, the Commonwealth hit the milestone of having over 2 million residents fully vaccinated. Over 3.2 million first doses have been administered to date.

Administration Launches New Ads for Vaccine Public Awareness Campaign:

Today, the Baker-Polito Administration announced [new TV ads](#) as part of its \$5 million, multilingual [“Trust the Facts, Get the Vax”](#) public awareness campaign. The new TV ads for the public awareness campaign are running in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language (ASL) and cite reasons for getting the vaccine and reminding remind people that the vaccine saves lives, and is the best way to help end the pandemic and protect you and your loved ones. According to recently-published [CDC data](#), Massachusetts has extremely low rates of vaccine hesitancy, but the Administration recognizes that people in communities of color and the hardest-hit cities and towns may face additional barriers to vaccine acceptance and access.



The first round of ads from the public awareness campaign, [launched in early February](#), feature a diverse group of doctors explaining the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. Research indicates that medical experts continue to be the most trusted voices to share this message. These ads are running in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, ASL and soon in Portuguese. These [additional ads](#) feature frontline workers, families and other community members sharing their stories about why they got the vaccine. The ads underscore that the vaccine saves lives, and residents should get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

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The new round of TV ads began running this week and will continue through the spring and into the summer. The campaign also features additional [animated ads](#) with specific messages about vaccine safety and access in English, Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL).

Watch the new ads:

- [English \(30 seconds\)](#)
- [Spanish \(30 seconds\)](#)

[View all the ads in the “Trust the Facts. Get the Vax.” campaign.](#)

These ads build on the Administration’s \$30 [million vaccine equity initiative](#) which continues to devote resources like door-to-door canvassing to address vaccination barriers in the 20 hardest-hit communities.

Red Sox Week at the Hynes Kicks Off to Promote COVID-19 Vaccination:

On Monday, the Administration, in partnership with the Boston Red Sox, The BASE, [El Mundo](#), [CIC Health](#), and FEMA, kicked off a week-long initiative to boost vaccine access to populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Red Sox Week at the Hynes is dedicated to creating a positive vaccination experience that celebrates and honors the diverse cultures across the Commonwealth. Bilingual Spanish-speaking staff and volunteers, along with Spanish signage, are available to help direct guests through the onsite registration and vaccination process. Residents getting vaccinated are treated to Red Sox themed attractions including visits from past and present players, a selfie station, World Series trophies, socially-distanced visits with Wally the Green Monster, and a raffle to win tickets to a Red Sox game.

Red Sox Week at the Hynes Community Vaccination Center will continue through Sunday, April 25.

Long-Term Care Vaccination & Visitation FAQ Released:

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services has released a list of frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination and visitation for residents, their families, and staff at long-term care facilities in Massachusetts. [The FAQ for Nursing Facilities and Rest Homes](#) can be found along with other helpful resources on the Long-Term Care COVID-19 [Family Information Center’s webpage](#).



Manny Delcarmen, former Red Sox pitcher, and member of the 2007 World Series Championship team greets a resident after he received a vaccination during Red Sox Week at the Hynes Convention Center on Wednesday.

Important Updates

Department of Public Health Updates:

- **Reminder Red Sox Week @ the Hynes - April 19-25.** “[Red Sox Week at the Hynes](#)” continues, focused on vaccine access for communities most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Outreach is in Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese. Appointments are still available. This link is available to share in Spanish: <https://www.cic-health.com/redsox/elmundo1>.
- DPH Epidemiology Line handled 453 COVID-19 calls and 86 non-COVID-19 calls for a total of 539 calls from 4/5 through 4/11.

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- Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities
 - o [DPH Notice of Intent](#)
 - o [CDC Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
- As of 4/21, the [Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps](#) has 305 volunteers supporting 43 local boards of health.
- All HMCC Regions are at Tier 2 status, in accordance with the [DPH COVID-19 Resurgence Planning and Response Guidance for Acute Care Hospitals](#). DPH and the COVID-19 Command Center will continue to work closely with all regions to monitor hospital capacity statewide.
- There are currently 3 Rapid Response Teams, comprised of nursing staff, deployed to nursing homes across the Commonwealth. Teams are also administering second doses of Pfizer vaccine to nursing and rest home residents as well as homebound individuals. The team has paused vaccination using Janssen vaccine at nursing homes and rest homes that have a high number of residents that are unvaccinated while awaiting further recommendations.

Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Updates:

Mass Care

- One state contracted isolation/recovery hotel in the City of Everett continues to receive client placements. 57 individuals are currently housed in the program.
 - o Top 5 referring cities:
 - Boston (442)
 - Worcester (198)
 - Springfield (188)
 - Quincy (127)
 - Cambridge (120)
 - o To date, a total of 2,369 residents have been placed in these hotels for safe isolation and recovery, an increase of 25 since last week.

Community Food Box Program Update 4/16-4/21:

MEMA is partnering with the Salvation Army, and a vendor, to bring in shelf-stable food boxes each week to support communities in their effort to deliver food to individuals and families in quarantine and isolation who require assistance accessing food. Each week MEMA's warehouse receives a delivery of shelf-stable food boxes. Distribution of food boxes is coordinated between MEMA and communities in need. The table below reflects the current food box inventory and number of food boxes distributed to communities during the weekly reporting period (data is updated every Friday).

Total Number of Food Boxes in MEMA's Inventory	Total Number of Food Boxes Distributed to One or More Local Communities During the Reporting Period	Total Number of Communities that Received Food Boxes During the Reporting Period
3,716	310	2

Grocery Card Distribution Program Update 4/16-4/21:

As an extension of the isolation and quarantine food program, the Food Security Task Force has begun coordinating the distribution of grocery cards in addition to or in lieu of shelf-stable food boxes. These grocery cards allow individuals to have greater flexibility of food options and help accommodate unique dietary needs and cultural food preferences.

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Store Name	Number of Cards Distributed During the Reporting Period	Total Value of Cards
Stop & Shop	488	\$48,800
Big Y	6	\$300
Total Number of Communities Receiving Cards: 12		

Logistics (including Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies)

- 82 orders prepared for pickup or delivery from the MEMA State Logistics warehouse from 4/16-4/22.
 - As part of these orders, MDPH Community Health Centers, MDPH Community Grant Programs, and Command Center Vaccine Equity Programs are being supported
 - Orders are also being processed to support housing authorities and school districts.
- MDPH coordinated 4 deliveries to health care entities on Tuesday (4/20) (4 BinaxNOW kits); 28 deliveries were made on Thursday (4/22) (28 BinaxNOW kits) and 9 deliveries have been scheduled for Friday (4/23) (9 BinaxNOW kits).

Disaster Recovery

On March 27, 2020, the President [declared](#) a Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through this declaration, federal aid will be made available to cities and towns, state agencies, and certain non-profits in all Massachusetts counties to help pay for emergency protective measures (response costs) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. MEMA's Recovery Unit has developed a [webpage](#) with information and guidance on, but not limited to, disaster declaration, eligibility criteria, and the application process. Highlights from the Disaster Recovery process include the following:

Data as of: 4/16/2021			
MEMA COVID-19 EXECUTIVE DASHBOARD AGGREGATE PROGRAM VIEW			
<i>Note: Financial data for pre-submission projects reflect 100% federal cost share while submitted projects continue to reflect 75% federal cost share. The remaining 25% federal cost share for submitted projects will be reported as FEMA adjusts cost share for these projects on a rolling basis. In addition, figures do not include MEMA management cost allowance.</i>			
Overall (Best Available Estimate)	Submitted (Eligibility & Cost Review)	Approved* (by FEMA)	Paid (by MEMA)
\$1.5B -\$1.93M	\$1.2B -\$69.10K	\$620.7M +\$2.35M	\$294.5M -\$79.05K
1,009 Projects +4	706 Projects +6	215 Projects +15	134 Projects 0
Approved Applicants: 655			

- FEMA RPA Requests: 664
- Technical Assistant Requests: 524
- Recovery is contacting each applicant that has not submitted a project application for the COVID-19 disaster to determine if technical assistance is required.
- TOTAL New project obligations (9): \$189,993.40.
- On Monday, April 26th at 12:30 PM, MEMA will host a webinar focused on institutions of Higher Education to review guidance as it pertains to the FEMA Public Assistance program for COVID-19 costs.

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The call will review the following measures implemented to facilitate the safe opening and operation of all eligible facilities in response to COVID-19 declared events:

- o Purchase and distribution of face masks, including cloth face coverings, and PPE.
- o COVID-19 diagnostic testing, screening, and temperature scanning, including, but not limited to, the purchase and distribution of hand-held temperature measuring devices or temperature screening equipment, and multiple other supplies and equipment.

Funeral Assistance

FEMA began processing applications for funeral assistance starting on 4/12. FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020 ([learn more here](#)).

FEMA COVID Funeral Assistance Program registration as of 4/21/21:

Disaster	State	Registrations	In Process	Eligible	Award Amount	Withdrawn	Ineligible
4496	MA	2,579	2,579	0	\$0.00	0	0

Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Update:

NOTE: The Soldiers' Homes are continuing regular reporting on the status of COVID-19 cases at the facilities but are transitioning the weekly reporting to the EOHHS State Facility Dashboard which is published every Wednesday afternoon. Cases will be reported weekly each Wednesday [on this dashboard](#) beginning next week.

Communications Resources

New HRSA fact sheets: Care for Uninsured Individuals

These fact sheets outline patient and provider rights and responsibilities regarding [access to COVID-19 vaccines](#), testing and treatment. These underscore that everyone is eligible for COVID-19 services, no matter their immigration status and you do not need a Social Security Number or government ID to receive free COVID-19 services.

- Fact Sheet for Patients - [English - PDF](#) | [Español - PDF](#)
- Fact Sheet for Providers - [English - PDF](#) | [Español - PDF](#)

New 'Trusted Sources' PSAs

Our latest videos come from [Grant Williams of the Boston Celtics](#) and [Kim Janey, Mayor of Boston](#). Please share these posts via your networks using our #TrusttheFacts hashtag.

Eligibility graphics

- Use these new [graphics](#) for your newsletters and social media showing COVID-19 vaccine eligibility dates for everyone who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts.



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Guidance for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

- Until more people are vaccinated, prevention measures will be necessary, even for individuals fully vaccinated. Review MA's [Guidance for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#).

CDC 'plain language' materials in multiple languages

- [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Other Public Messaging Resources for Communities:

The COVID-19 Command Center and DPH have produced many communication resources aimed at helping communities inform and educate residents on recent executive orders and guidance related to COVID-19.

- [Trust the Facts, Get the Vax Campaign Materials | Mass.gov](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Posters | Mass.gov](#)
- [Preparing for your COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment flier | Mass.gov](#)
- [Guide to hosting a forum on the COVID-19 Vaccine | Mass.gov](#)

Resources

MassSupport

MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and managed in partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center, a program of Riverside Community Care. Contact MassSupport by phone at **888-215-4920** or by email at MassSupport@riversidecc.org

Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center

In order to provide support to families and communities who have suffered loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Red Cross has developed a Virtual Family Assistance Center (VFAC), staffed by a team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care, and health services volunteers who are:

- Connecting with families over the phone to offer condolences, emotional and spiritual support, and access to available resources
- Providing support for virtual memorial services for families, including connecting with local faith-based community partners
- Hosting online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills
- Assisting families with access to national, state, or local resources such as grief counseling, legal resources, funeral information, financial information services, or veterans' assistance
- Additional state- and local-specific resources are available.

People can visit: <https://www.redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center/ma-family-assistance-center.html>

to access this resource with special virtual programs, information, referrals, and services to support families in need. People without internet access can **call toll-free 833-492-0094** for help. All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) now reports on the number of positive COVID-19 cases as reported to the DESE by school districts (including charter schools), collaboratives, and approved

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special education schools. The data only represents what has been reported to DESE. For more information and to view the report people can visit: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/positive-cases/>

COVID-19 Test Site Locator

MEMA, in conjunction with the COVID-19 Command Center, has developed an [interactive tool](#) that shows the locations of COVID-19 testing sites around the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Dashboard

MEMA has developed and maintains a public-facing COVID-19 ArcGIS Online dashboard, available [here](#). This dashboard is continuously updated and captures information about current COVID 19 case counts, cases by age, cases by county, hospital status, hospital bed status, death tolls, and deaths by age. Users should refresh the dashboard daily as enhancements are continuously being added.

Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here](#).

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Get notified by text, email, or phone call in your preferred language. Visit <https://member.everbridge.net/index/406686158291020/#/signup> to sign-up for **AlertsMA** for the latest news on the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19
- Take care of your emotional health:
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the "CALL2TALK" option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.

How to Help Out

- [Donate](#) to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund

The Need for Blood Donations Continues, and Recovered COVID-19 Donors Can Help Save Lives

In coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Red Cross is seeking people who are fully recovered from the new coronavirus to sign up to donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening condition. Interested individuals can visit [RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need. To make an appointment to donate, please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org