

Thursday, August 13, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

The Command Center Situation Report is published weekly on Thursdays.

In This Week's Report:

- Latest Data: Public Health Update
- Week in Review: Key State Actions
 - Enhanced Community Level Data on Spread of COVID-19
 - \$1.8 Billion Bond Bill to Improve Information Technology, Public Safety and Food Security
 - New Initiatives Launched to Stop Spread of COVID-19
 - DPH, Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Updates
 - ICYMI: Surveillance Testing in Long-Term Care
 - Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Weekly Update



Helpful Links:

- [COVID-19 Travel Order](#)
- [Mass.gov/findfoodhelp](#)
- [Stop the Spread](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](#)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)

Background on the Command Center

The COVID Command Center, under the leadership of Secretary Marylou Sudders and reporting to Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, is the Commonwealth's single point of strategic decision making and coordination for the Administration's comprehensive COVID-19 response.



Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts current as of 8/13

113,517 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

8,568 Deaths among confirmed cases

1,381,178 individuals tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States Last Updated 8/13

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:

5,176,018 Total Cases

165,148 Deaths

55 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, 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 if physical distancing is not possible.

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Latest Data: COVID-19 Public Health Update

Testing Update:

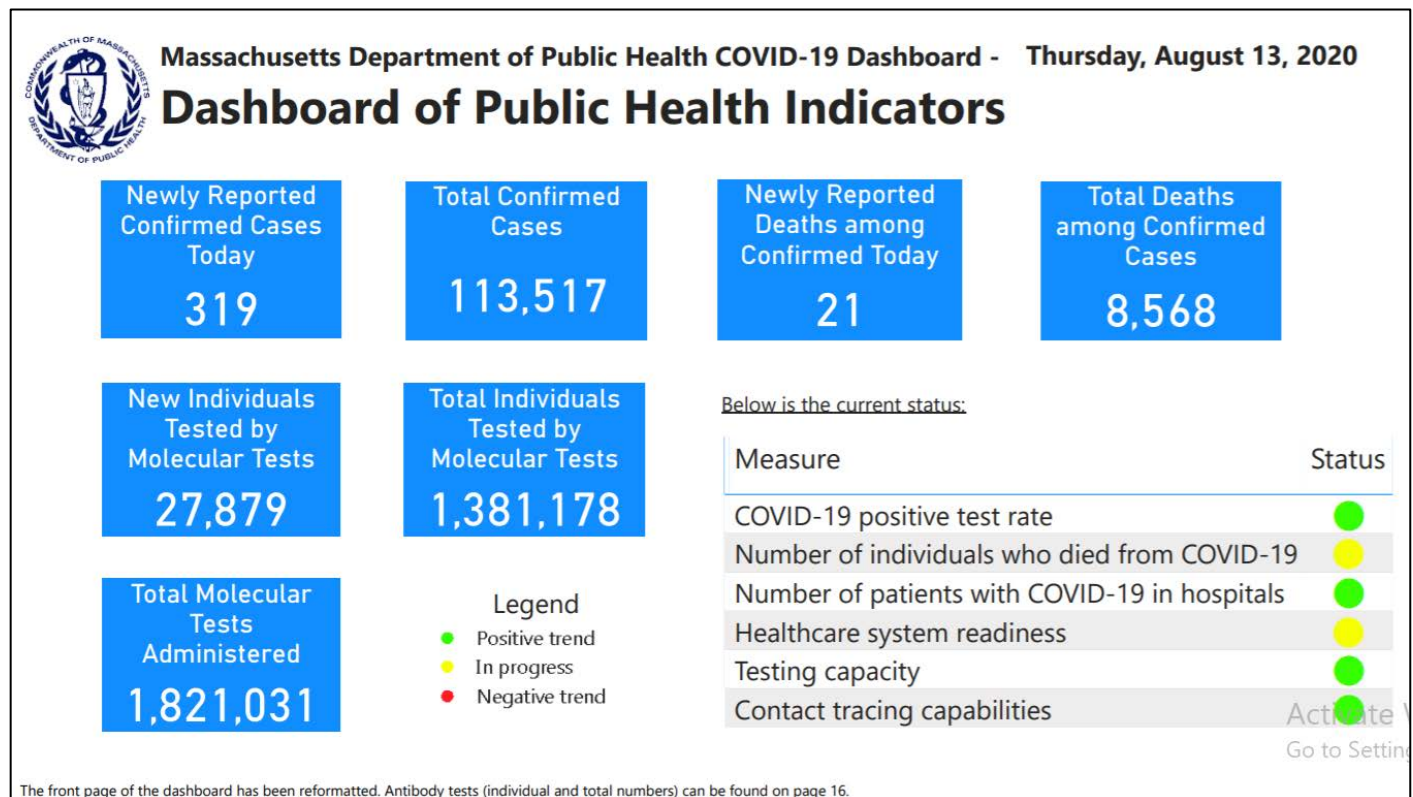
Today, more than **27,879** new individuals tested by molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with **319** newly reported confirmed positive cases. The total molecular tests administered to date is more than **1.8 million**.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update: As of today, **401** people are hospitalized, with **61** reported to be in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Key indicators from today's Daily Dashboard are below.

Enhancements to Daily Dashboard and Weekly Public Health Data Report

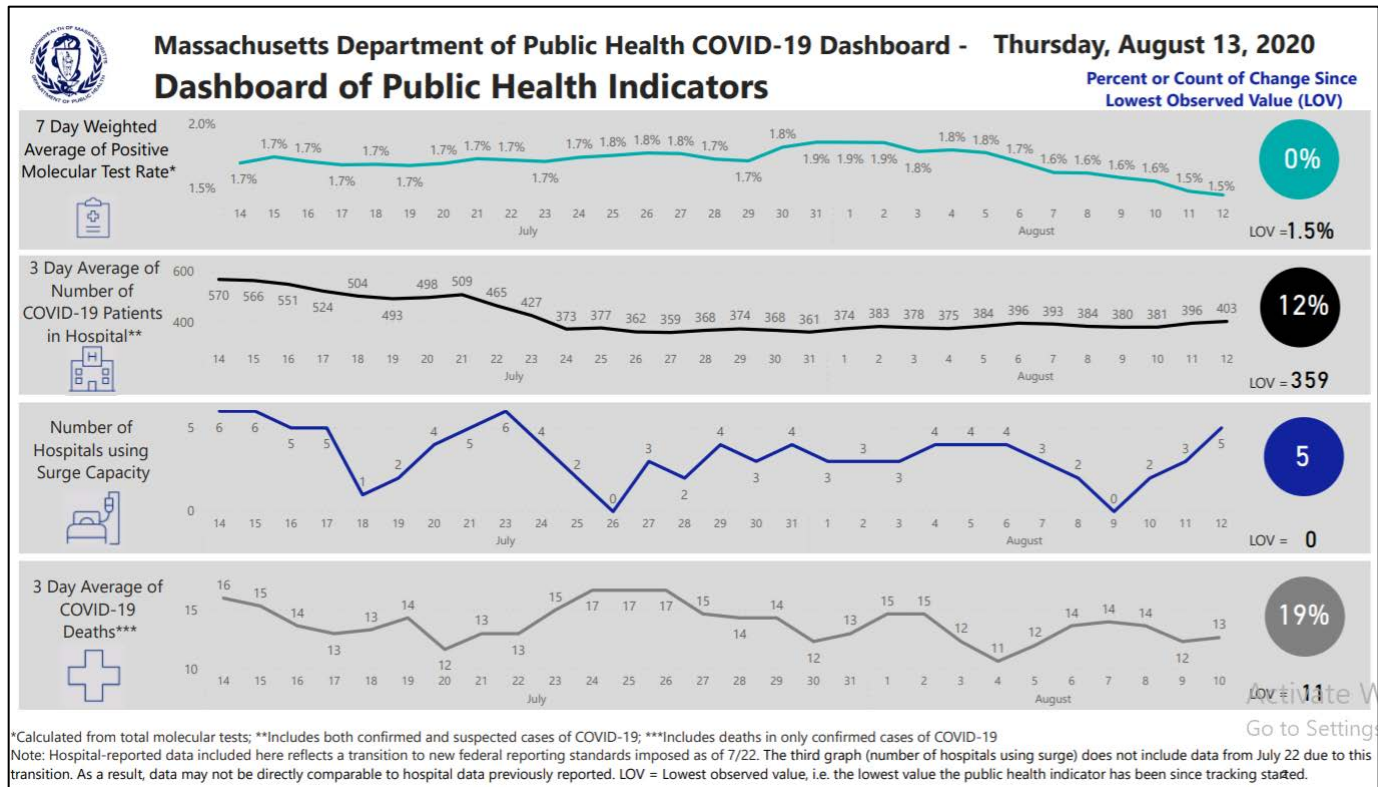
This week the Command Center instituted a number of changes and enhancements to its public health data reporting. The Daily Dashboard began including the number of individuals tested by antigens, broken down by date and by result. Yesterday, the Command Center released the comprehensive [COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report](#). Data on probable cases, which were previously included in the Daily Dashboard can now be found in the Weekly Public Health Report. The Weekly report also includes enhanced community level data (see story below) and new data related to contact tracing.

You can find all the data reports, raw data files, by visiting the [COVID-19 Response Reporting page](#).



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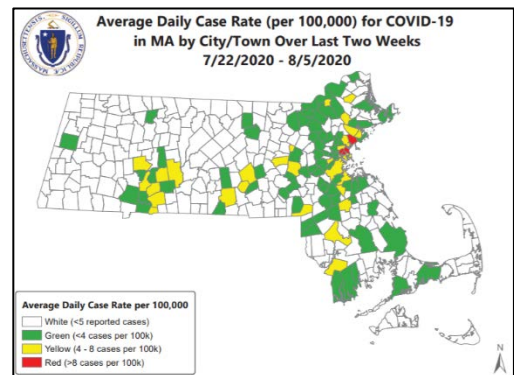
Week in Review: State Actions

Baker-Polito Administration Releases Enhanced Community Level Data on Spread of COVID-19

On Tuesday, August 11th, the Baker-Polito Administration released additional data on community level spread of COVID-19 in order to target additional resources and implement community specific strategies to stop the spread of the virus. ([Press release here](#)).

Last week, Governor Charlie Baker announced a new set of initiatives aimed at stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, especially in higher risk communities that have seen a recent uptick in cases. While Massachusetts has seen an overall decrease in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations since May, there has been a slight uptick in certain communities in recent days.

The Administration released data on the average daily cases per 100,000 residents, average percent positivity, and total case counts, for all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns over the last two weeks.



Based on the average daily cases per 100,000 residents, each city or town has been designated as a higher risk, moderate risk, or lower risk community. Going forward, this information will be updated and included in the Department of Public Health's weekly public health dashboard, which is published each Wednesday.

[Click here to view a map with these designations by community.](#)

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Any city or town designated higher risk is considered to have a high level of COVID infection, and will receive additional support from the Commonwealth to address the spread of the virus.

Last week, Governor Baker announced a targeted cross-agency COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team that will be responsible for ramping up enforcement statewide and coordinating intervention efforts at the local level in these higher risk COVID-19 communities.

Member agencies include the Executive Office and Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Command Center, the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), the Department of Labor Standards (DLS), the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Division of Local Services (DLS), the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) and the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS).

Statewide Enforcement and Intervention supports will include:

- Targeted interventions and inspections by a range of member agencies, including Local Services, Labor Standards, DPH, MSP and ABCC, coordinated by EOPSS and MEMA.
- Increased enforcement, including fines, of sector guidance for businesses to ensure businesses and residents are aware of and following COVID-19 orders.
- Cease and desist orders as necessary for businesses and organizations in violation of the COVID-19 orders.
- Support for ABCC and local licensing boards in exercising their existing authority to fine restaurants or suspend or cancel liquor licenses when restaurants do not comply with required COVID-19 safety measure or sanitation codes.
- Targeted public messaging to alert residents of higher risk COVID communities (road signs, PSAs, reverse 911, etc.).
- Technical support to local government officials to support enhanced local COVID-19 prevention efforts such as assistance in accessing CARES Act funding.
- Potential restrictions or shutdowns for parks, playgrounds, businesses or other entities and locations believed to be contributing to the COVID-19 spread in higher risk COVID-19 communities.
- Additional public health support such as testing, tracing and quarantining.

Governor Signs \$1.8 Billion Bond Bill to Improve Information Technology, Public Safety and Food Security

Last Friday, Governor Charlie Baker [signed](#) *An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth*, which authorizes up to \$1.8 billion in capital funding for key investments in public safety, food security, and information technology. This includes programs to enhance the security of the Commonwealth's IT assets, improve the delivery of state and local services, and continue responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Press release here](#)).

"We are pleased to have worked closely with the Legislature to sign this bill into law and continue investing in information technology improvements, public safety upgrades and food security across the Commonwealth," **said Governor Baker**. "We are continuing to support critical capital investments that modernize our technology infrastructure and allow us to deliver effective and reliable government services for the people of Massachusetts during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic."



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“Our Administration is proud to collaborate with our legislative colleagues and continue making important technology infrastructure investments throughout our local communities,” **said Lieutenant Governor Polito**. “This legislation will allow us to work closely with our municipal partners to make upgrades that improve the delivery of government services and benefit Massachusetts residents.”

“As we adjust to a world transformed by a global pandemic, I am thrilled to see these critical investments in our Commonwealth clear the final hurdle and become law,” **said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland)**. “The Senate stands committed to supporting existing programs as well as investing in underserved and underrepresented populations, and this bond authorization includes many of the priorities championed by my colleagues. I am particularly proud to see this legislation includes much-needed supports for our childcare providers and directs funding to bolster economic empowerment in communities of color across our state.”

“Now, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, more than ever, everyone realizes the importance of our information technology infrastructure,” **said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop)**. “These investments will strengthen the resilience of our state and help provide more equitable access to key services for our residents. I thank Governor Baker, Senate President Spilka, and my colleagues in the Legislature for their work on this important bill.”

\$660 million in authorizations in the legislation will support IT infrastructure needs throughout the Commonwealth, strengthening cybersecurity and improving how state agencies serve their constituents. The bill authorizes \$90 million for public safety including \$10 million to establish a new fire training facility in southeastern Massachusetts.

\$346.5 million is authorized for municipal grant programs including \$25 million for firefighter safety grants, \$10 million for a municipal ADA-accessibility grant program, and \$5 million for the Community Compact program.

The legislation also authorizes \$37.3 million in capital funding to ensure food security for residents across the Commonwealth.

Other notable authorizations in the General Governmental Bond Bill include:

- \$115 million for library construction grants
- \$20 million for a program to enhance fiber-optic connectivity in key municipal buildings
- \$375 million for repairs and improvements for facilities across the Commonwealth

New Initiatives Launched to Stop Spread of COVID-19

Last Friday, Governor Charlie Baker announced a new set of initiatives aimed at stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, especially in higher risk communities that have seen a recent uptick in cases. ([Press release here](#)).

The Administration announced a set of initiatives, including stricter statewide rules for public and private gatherings and targeted community guidance. The Administration also announced that, starting next week, additional reporting for town-by-town data will be published weekly to show the spread of COVID-19 at a community level. Additionally, [previously announced](#) free COVID-19 testing in 17 communities has been extended through September 12.



**Governor Reduces
Gathering Limit;
Announces Enhanced
Enforcement Of
Safety Standards**

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Statewide Guidance:

Governor Baker signed an **updated gatherings order**, which took effect Tuesday, August 11, which:

- Reduces the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)
- Applies these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property
- Requires face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.

Due to the recent increase in positive cases, step two of phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan has been postponed indefinitely.

Restaurant rules have been updated to state that alcoholic beverages may only be served for on-site consumption if accompanied by orders for food prepared on-site. The administration will be taking measures to ensure that bars masquerading as restaurants will be closed.

Public safety officials, including state and local law enforcement, have the jurisdiction to enforce these orders and event hosts in violation of these orders will be subject to fines or cease and desist orders.

To read the gatherings order, [click here](#).

To read the updated restaurant protocols, [click here](#).

Stop the Spread:

Last month, the Administration launched the [Stop the Spread](#) initiative, which provides free testing to residents in targeted communities throughout the Commonwealth.

There are currently sites in 17 communities: Agawam, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Marlborough, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, Taunton, and Worcester.

The initiative is a data-driven focused effort to reduce the prevalence of COVID-19 in communities that are above the state average in total cases, positive test rate, and have experienced a decline in testing levels since April. These sites are open to all residents of the Commonwealth.

Last Friday, the Administration announced the extension of free testing in these 17 communities through September 12.

Important Updates

Department of Public Health Updates:

- DPH hosted multiple calls with local health officials and healthcare stakeholders during the week to deliver updates on COVID-19 guidance and share information on implementation issues related to the Travel Order and revised order on gatherings, and to discuss how the Commonwealth can provide additional support to cities and towns that have been designated at higher or moderate risk based on the average daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents.

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- The Nursing Home Family Resource Line received 92 calls between Thursday 9am (8/6) and Wednesday 5pm (8/12) for a new total of 8,146 and made 53 outgoing calls during that period for a new total of 3,790.
- MA 211 has now responded to more than 100,000 calls related to COVID-19, receiving 3,302 calls between Friday 9am (8/6) and Thursday 9am (8/12) for a new total of 102,860.

Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Updates:

Mass Care

- 2 state contracted quarantine/isolation hotels in the communities of Northampton and Everett continue to receive client placements.
 - Currently 9 residents are housed in these hotels (change of -15 since last Thursday)
 - These hotels will continue to operate into August to support the “Stop the Spread” testing initiative.
- A total of 128,275 meals have been distributed to date through state contracted hotel sites and distributions of food boxes and meal bags.
- Tent operations supporting homeless individuals continue in Haverhill.

Logistics (including Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies)

- 31 orders have been prepared for pickup or delivery this week.
- MEMA is supporting KN-95 distribution to state college and university police departments throughout the week. 51,200 KN-95 have been distributed amongst 69 of these departments.
- DPH has coordinated 14 deliveries to health care entities on Tuesday 8/11 (9 PPE/5 testing supplies – 1 facility requested both) and 21 deliveries are scheduled for Friday 8/14 (11 PPE/10 testing supplies – 1 facility requested both).

Disaster Recovery

On March 27, 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:

- Federal announcement of the availability of the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) under the FEMA Individual Assistance program. States have 30 days to submit applications for the program. MEMA has engaged with EOLWD to discuss.
- Total FEMA RPA Applicants: 564 (+16)
- Total # Obligated Projects: 20 / \$ \$7,509,236.92 (+2 / +\$55,039.97)
- Total # of Payments Disbursed: 7 / \$606,009.53 (+5 / +\$161,878.03)
- Total # of Partial Payments Disbursed: 1 / \$ \$170,759.77 (+1 / +\$ \$170,759.77)
- Online Applicant Technical Assistant Requests: 424 (+4)
- Continuing to provide technical assistance to project applicants.

ICYMI: Surveillance Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities

On June 30, the Command Center issued [evidence-based surveillance testing guidance](#) for long-term care facilities that started with a new round of baseline testing of staff members.

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Based on the results of that testing, facilities will follow strict guidelines for further testing if positive cases are identified, or ongoing surveillance testing if no new positive cases are identified during the new round of baseline testing. Compliance with the testing program is required in nursing facilities and rest homes and is recommended for assisted living residences. This strategy will continue through the end of September, at which point the results will be assessed based on public health metrics. Facilities are expected to organize their own testing of staff through qualified testing providers, and the Commonwealth is funding the initiative in nursing facilities and rest homes through September.

To determine the cadence of surveillance testing, nursing facilities and rest homes were required to perform baseline testing of at least 90% of staff by July 19th. Based on these results, facilities were required to adhere to a surveillance testing regimen:

- If there are COVID+ cases, the facility must test all staff weekly until there are no new cases for two weeks.
- If there are no COVID+ cases, the facility must either test all staff, or 30% of staff, bi-weekly, depending on the COVID-19 transmission rates in the facility's EMS region.

As of August 6, 338 of 429 long-term care facilities have attested to achieving the testing threshold. Twenty-two (22) facilities did not meet the required testing threshold, and 69 facilities did not report their testing data. You can find a list of facilities and their compliance status beginning on [page 47 of the weekly Public Health Report](#).

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 8/13)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	24,552
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	377
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	5,621



**NURSING HOME
FAMILY RESOURCE LINE**
617-660-5399

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



Holyoke Soldiers' Home Weekly Update

- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is closely monitoring the health of all veterans and staff, and is retesting individuals. Another round of testing done on Thursday and Friday of last week resulted in no positive tests. Outside of regular facility testing, residents are closely monitored and if there is any sign of COVID-like symptoms, they are immediately retested.
- The Soldiers' Home's medical team is making all clinical decisions following [the latest CDC guidance](#), which continues to evolve as the medical community learns more about this new virus. The CDC recommends making medical decisions regarding when to end isolation and determine that the patient has recovered based on symptoms and time elapsed.
 - o Since the start of the pandemic, more than 80 residents had been determined clinically recovered, which means that they at one point tested positive for COVID-19, but are now considered clinically recovered as defined by federal CDC guidance.
 - o The Home continues to adhere to infection control protocols throughout the Home, and continues the cohorting of veterans with the same status.

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- Visitation continues to be suspended temporarily until the results of all testing from last week are returned out of an abundance of caution to protect the health and safety of veteran residents and loved ones. When all results are received, loved ones will be notified immediately that visits can be scheduled safely.
 - o The [outdoor visitation plan](#) will always be contingent on the continued stability of infection control and public health metrics, which are monitored daily and coordinated with state and local health officials.
 - o Video visits between veteran residents and their loved ones is continuing, and the Family Hotline is available for ad hoc updates with support from social work and clinical staff.
 - o Families can call the Family Hotline at 413-552-4764 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Families can also request updates via email at CommunicationsMailbox-HLY@Mass.gov. Please note the Soldiers' Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file.
- In June, the Baker-Polito Administration released the independent report ordered by Governor Baker to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers' Home, and announced a series of reforms to strengthen its governance and oversight of the Home, improving staffing processes, providing quality care for our Veterans, and planning for significant capital improvements.
- The Soldiers' Home leadership is committed to ensuring the safety of the Veteran residents and restoring the Home to its rightful place that treats them with dignity, honor and respect. The Soldiers' Home leadership is moving into the Transition & Rebuilding Phase that is focused on rebuilding staff leadership and team and positioning the facility to move forward safely.
- Holyoke's Clinical Command continues to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, monitoring staffing levels, while bringing on additional management staff for nursing, facilities, and administration. The Holyoke Soldiers' Home has been intently focused on following infection control procedures and maintaining best practices for the safety of veteran residents and staff, and to support the recovery of veterans as the health status of many stabilizes. All veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is being conducted for veterans both on- and off-site as clinically appropriate.
- **The current status as August 11 is as follows:**
 - o The current status of all residents:
 - 0 positive and not clinically recovered
 - 58 veterans are negative
 - 3 residents have pending tests
 - 81 residents have been determined clinically recovered
 - 1 resident has refused testing
 - o Resident locations:
 - 110 veterans are onsite
 - 33 veterans are offsite
 - 24 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 9 veterans are receiving acute care offsite
 - o Since March 1, there have been 76 veteran deaths of veterans who tested positive
 - o All employees had been determined clinically recovered, and employees were retested again Thursday and Friday of last week.
 - 0 tested positive
 - All who previously tested positive are clinically recovered

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Weekly Update

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to welcome visitors for outdoor visitation between veterans and loved ones and at the start of this week there had been over 315 visits. Following [visitation guidance](#),

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the Home's protocols prioritize the health and safety of Veterans and staff, with continued focus on infection control. Ongoing plans are contingent on the continued stability of infection controls and public health metrics, which we continue to monitor daily and coordinate with state and local health officials.

- o Outdoor visitation is occurring in addition to continued video visits between veteran residents and their loved ones. Families can also request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at CSH@mass.gov and through phone and video conversations. Medical information can only be shared with an authorized health care proxy.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea is reporting the recovery of residents based on clinical determinations following the retesting of all veterans, and 43 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered.
- Thanks to a donation from the Board of Trustees, the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea has been treating long term care veterans to lobster rolls to celebrate the summer.
- The Home has eased restrictions for veteran residents living in the dormitory section of the facility. Those residents can now order food delivery from area restaurants, and drive in their personal vehicles off-site to medical appointments. The curfew has been extended, now from 11pm - 5am. Veteran residents living in the dormitory are visiting a local outdoor music event, respecting social distancing.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea monitors the PPE supply, and continues to receive shipments of PPE including gloves, masks, eye protection, gowns, and shoe covers. The Incident Command team at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to enforce staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as source PPE to ensure that residents and staff have access to critical safety equipment. The team continues to coordinate closely with the VA Health Care System.
- **The current status as of August 11 is as follows:**
 - o Residents
 - 0 veteran residents are positive
 - 150 veteran residents are negative
 - 43 residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 0 residents have pending tests
 - Since March 1, there have been 31 deaths of veterans who tested positive
 - o Employees:
 - 0 employees are positive
 - All employees who previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered

Resources

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.

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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.

COVID-19 Public Resources Map

MEMA, together with MA VOAD and other partners, has developed a [COVID-19 Public Resources Map](#) showing the location of resources available to the public, such as food banks, houses of worship, and Project Bread site locations. Please note that this map is not inclusive of all resources and is only as accurate as the information that has been provided to MEMA.

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 on a daily basis as enhancements are continuously being added.

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results. Call 2-1-1 with questions. Text the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777** to receive notifications to your phone. To receive these notifications in Spanish, text **COVIDMAESP** to **888-777**
- 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.

Communications Resources

Infographics

- [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
- Social distancing: for [youth](#) for [general audience](#)
- [Coping with stress or fear](#)
- What to do [if you are sick](#)
- 10 tips for at-home [quarantine or self-monitoring](#)

Short videos:

Overview of COVID-19 Testing	Importance of COVID-19 Testing	How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home
• English	• English	• Spanish

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• Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Haitian Creole • Vietnamese
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- [10 Tips for at home quarantine or self-monitoring](#)
- [Stop the Spread of Germs like Seasonal Flu and COVID-19 \(:30\)](#)
- [Help Prevent COVID-19 with Social Distancing \(:30\)](#)
- [How Young People Can Help Prevent COVID-19 with Social Distancing \(:30\)](#)
- [Coping with Stress and Fear from COVID-19 \(:30\)](#)
- [Stay Home - Save Lives \(:06\)](#)

Spanish Radio Spots (available on request):

- “Prevent the Spread of Germs,” “Social Distancing and Stay Home,” and “Stay Safe. Save Lives.”

How to Help Out

- [Donate](#) to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: [Please click here.](#)
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here.](#)

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