

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

Note: Due to the July 4th Holiday, The Command Center Situation Report will not be published on a Friday, July 3, but will resume its regular publishing schedule on Monday, July 6.

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Governor Baker Tours YMCA and Provides Daily Update
- Updated Travel Guidelines to Support COVID-19 Response
- GIC Deferring \$190 Million in FY21 First Quarter Premium Payments for Municipal Members
- Public Health Data: Daily Dashboard Indicators & Weekly Report
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Situation Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](#)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [MBTA.com/covid19](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)
- [Complete List of Emergency Orders & 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 7/1

109,143 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

8,081 Deaths

853,150 individuals tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States Last Updated 7/1

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:

2,624,873 Total Cases

127,299 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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State Actions

Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak, YMCA of Greater Boston President & CEO James Morton, City of Boston HHS Chief Marty Martinez, and Carol Tienken, the COO of the Greater Boston Food Bank to highlight a partnership that has improved food security among residents and families throughout the Boston area. Governor Baker began by providing his regular COVID-19 response update.

Testing Update:

Yesterday (June 30th) 5,813 new molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with 114 newly reported confirmed positive. Over 1,066,000 molecular tests have been conducted to date. The average positive test rate declined to **1.8%** which represents a 94% reduction in positive cases since mid-April.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

As of June 30th, 733 people have been hospitalized, with 120 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decline of over 89% since mid-April. See today's daily Dashboard Indicators beginning on page 4.

Administration Highlights Unique Food Security Partnership With The RIDE

Today's visit highlighted an innovative partnership to help provide Boston's most vulnerable residents with access to food by utilizing RIDE paratransit service. As of the end of June 2020, the RIDE has completed over 8,000 deliveries, totaling more than 12,000 grocery bags and nearly 60,000 school meals to over 1,200 Boston Public School children.

"Our administration is committed to addressing food security concerns created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this partnership between the MBTA, City of Boston, YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank is an innovative way we can support our most vulnerable residents during these unprecedented times," **said Governor Charlie Baker.** "We are glad this initiative is making a difference, and appreciate the work of so many partners to make it happen."

"This unique initiative to address food insecurity is another way that the RIDE is serving residents in need during this public health emergency," **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** "Our administration is grateful to the many leaders, organizations and residents that have stepped up to help their neighbors through the pandemic."



As of the end of June 2020, the RIDE has completed over 8,000 deliveries, totaling more than 12,000 grocery bags and nearly 60,000 school meals to over 1,200 Boston Public School children.

"I want to express my sincere gratitude to the operators of our RIDE vehicles who have stepped up to help our most vulnerable neighbors access food," **said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak.** "This partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, the City of Boston and the YMCA has been a tremendous success, resulting in the delivery of tens of thousands of bags of groceries to citizens in need."

"Our work in providing food during the COVID-19 public health emergency is a great example of everyone coming together to support our residents' most immediate needs, and we look forward to continuing this work during the summer and beyond," **said Mayor Martin J. Walsh.** "I thank the MBTA, and our partners at the

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YMCA, and the Greater Boston Food Bank for helping us strengthen the City of Boston's food access work that has already provided over two million meals to our residents most in need and negatively impacted by COVID-19."

"The unique collaboration between GBFB, the YMCA, the City of Boston and the MBTA was born out of necessity and sheer will power to get food to those in need during this historic public health crisis," **said Carol Tienken, COO of The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB).** "We aim to continue our work together, to end hunger here."

"We acknowledge the strong leadership of Governor Baker during the pandemic and relish this opportunity to partner with the MBTA, Mayor Walsh and City of Boston to deliver food to our most vulnerable children, families and seniors. It is a blessing to coalesce our organizational skills, infrastructures and 'people power' in the spirit of serving others," **said James Morton, President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston.** "We thank the MBTA and City of Boston for allowing the YMCA of Greater Boston to participate in this important partnership, as we are universally committed to mitigating hunger for all Bostonians during this crisis and beyond. We appreciate the recognition of our work from our partners, Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh."

As ridership on the MBTA's RIDE service has significantly declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, available RIDE vehicles are currently being utilized to pick up and deliver food items and school meals to residents. Collaborating with GBFB and the YMCA, RIDE drivers arrive at the YMCA location on Huntington Avenue daily to pick up an assortment of grocery bags and shelf stable school meals. Groceries are delivered by RIDE vehicles to designated homes, the amount based on the size of the household and whether or not the family is enrolled in the Boston Public School partnership.

In May, the Baker-Polito Administration [announced a \\$56 million investment](#) to combat food insecurity, consistent with the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force. Last month, the Administration [announced the opening of applications](#) for the largest portion of that investment, the \$36 million Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program.

Updated Travel Guidelines to Support COVID-19 Response ([News Release](#))

Yesterday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced new COVID-19 public health [guidelines](#) on travel and transportation.

Effective today, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts, including residents returning home, are instructed to self-quarantine for 14-days. This guidance does not apply to travelers from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York or New Jersey. Additionally, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are also exempt from this directive.

Travelers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are instructed to not travel to Massachusetts. All visitors and residents of Massachusetts are also reminded that the use of masks or face coverings in public places where individuals cannot socially distance from others remains [required](#).



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These new guidelines replace [previously announced](#) Massachusetts travel guidance. For national travel information, please visit www.travel.state.gov.

GIC Deferring \$190 Million in FY21 First Quarter Premium Payments for Municipal Members ([News Release](#))

The Administration announced today that the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) will defer \$190 million in premium payments during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) from local cities and towns, regional school districts, and other entities that became members of the GIC through the Municipal Partnership Act.

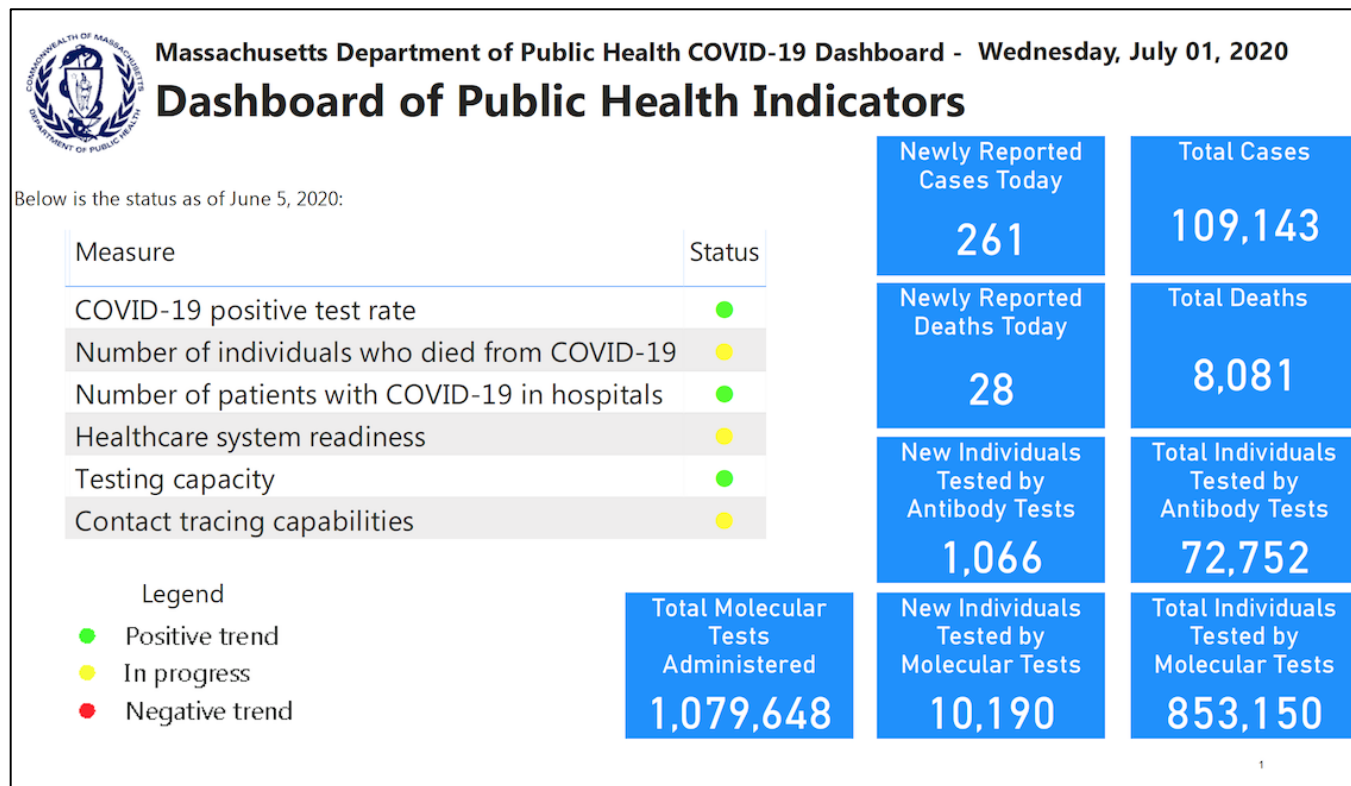
This measure will provide important cash-flow relief to GIC municipal members across Massachusetts without compromising the GIC's ability to pay all member claims without any impact on total FY21 revenue.

All FY21 revenues will be billed and collected later during the fiscal year. The total cash-flow relief anticipated as a result of the FY21 first quarter deferral is approximately \$63 million per month or approximately \$190 million total.

This announcement builds upon additional measures put in place by the Administration to provide cash flow relief and budgetary support to municipalities. This includes making up to \$502 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available to cities and towns for COVID-19 response efforts, as well as making up to \$200 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available for costs related to reopening public schools, \$194 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grants, and \$25 million in matching funds for remote learning technology grants.

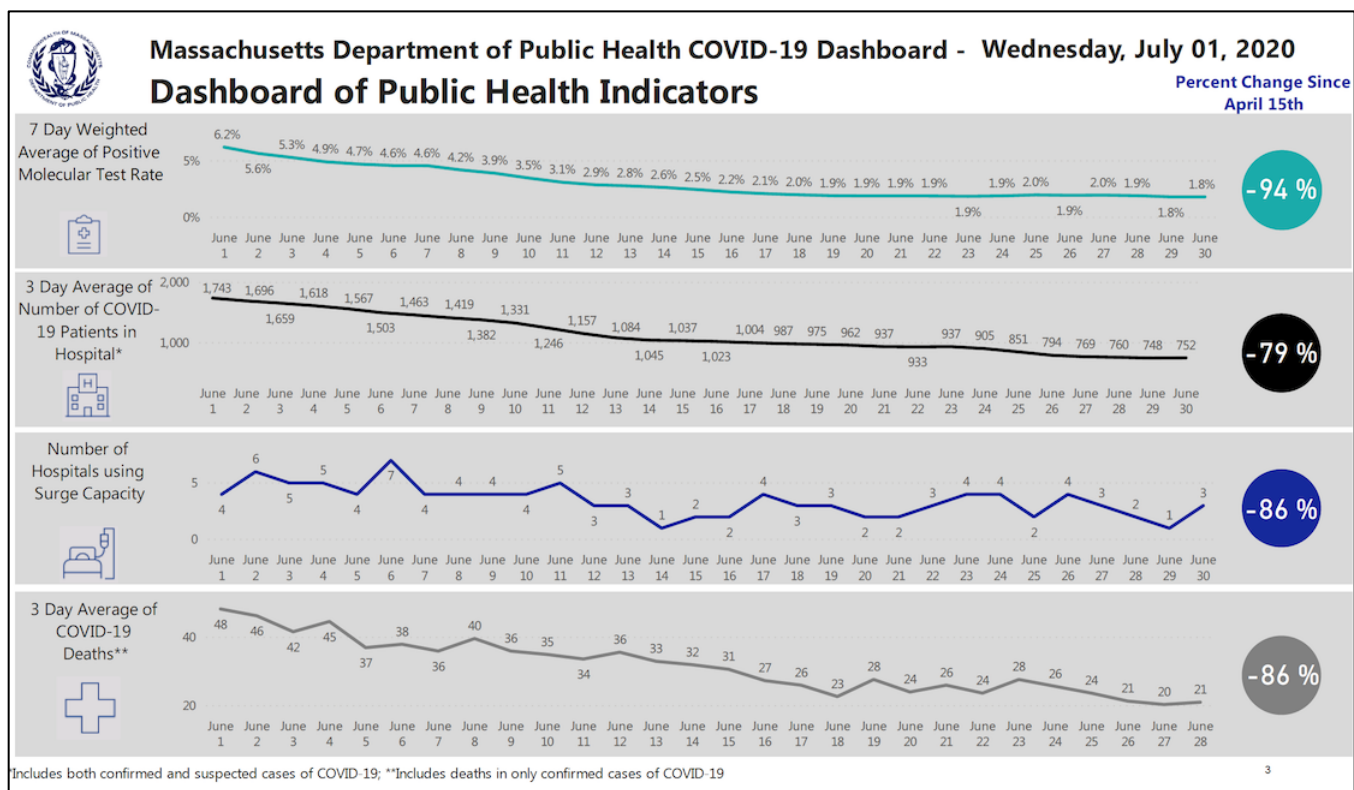
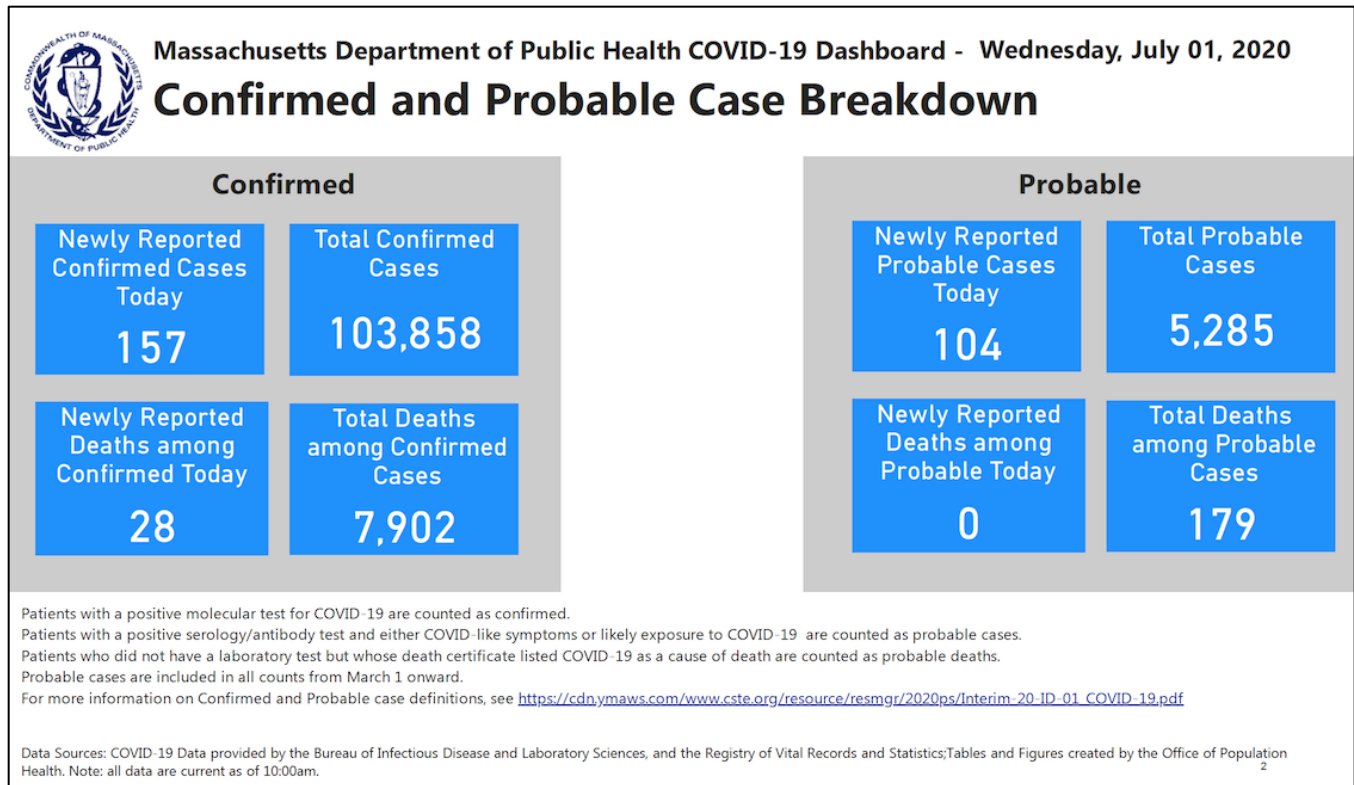
COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the July 1st Daily Dashboard is provided below:



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER

DAILY SITUATION REPORT



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER DAILY SITUATION REPORT

New Weekly Public Health Data Posted

The Command Center released the comprehensive Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report today, which is posted each Wednesday. The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report includes town-by-town case and testing information, data on recoveries, along with detailed case and death data related to long term care facilities. The report also includes information on the 4th round of nursing facility infection control audits and more. You can find all the data reports, and raw data files, by visiting the [COVID-19 Response Reporting page](#).

Important Updates

Update on Mobile Testing Numbers for Long Term Care, Assisted Living Residences and EOHHS Sites

Note: The Family Resource Line is now available Monday-Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Onsite Testing

Date	Number of Tests Completed	Unique Facilities Visited
Total (as of 6/15)	57,058	493

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 7/1)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	23,458
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	369
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	5,127

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 7/1 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,424
Staff	17,597
Total Tests	29,021
Number of Locations	1,997



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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



ICYMI: Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries Resume Military Committal Services ([News Release](#))

Beginning July 3, 2020, the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries (MVMC) in Agawam and Winchendon will resume Military Committal Services for veterans who have died. Military Committal Services include the Folding of the Flag, Taps, and a Firing Volley. Military Committal Services are resuming with [revised protocols](#) based on infection control guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- Last week, 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'

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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.

- All veteran residents of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered, following full-house retesting. Residents are actively continuing their recovery, and the health status of veterans has seen marked improvement.
 - If there is any sign of COVID-like symptoms, residents are retested.
- The Soldiers' Home has resumed additional religious services to residents, streaming mass over CCTV, and has opened up the chapel for residents to visit one at a time for infection control. In nice weather, services will be offered outside with social distancing.
- The Home is continuing recreational activities for Veterans, respecting social distancing, and veterans continue to go outside with nursing and recreation staff.
- Outdoor visitation with veterans' families and loved ones is being offered, with 20 slots available each day, Tuesday through Saturday. Families and loved ones are able to schedule visits with veterans in advance using the Family Line.
 - The Soldiers' Home is following [visitation guidance](#), and is using outdoor visitation protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. This plan will be 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.
 - Outdoor visitation is occurring alongside continued video visits, and the Family Hotline is available for ad hoc updates with support from social work and clinical staff. 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. If a family member requests an update and is **not** the health care proxy, the name of the health care proxy will be shared and it will be suggested that the health care proxy should call and request the update.
- 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 of July 1 is as follows:**
 - The current status of all residents:
 - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 62 veterans are negative
 - 84 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 1 veteran has a pending test result
 - 1 veteran has refused testing
 - Resident locations:
 - 119 veterans are onsite
 - 29 veterans are offsite
 - 26 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 3 veterans are receiving acute care offsite

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- Since March 1, there have been 98 veteran deaths (76 deaths of veterans who tested positive, 18 veterans who tested negative, 1 veteran whose status was unknown, 2 veterans were clinically recovered)
- Employees at the Home have been retested and all are clinically recovered.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has welcomed 71 visits between veterans and loved ones since resuming outdoor visitation. Following visitation guidance, the Home has protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our 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.
 - 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 37 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered.
- The Incident Command team at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to monitor and 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 July 1 is as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 1 veteran resident are positive
 - 157 veteran residents have tested negative
 - 37 residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 43 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 11 tested negative, 1 clinically recovered)
 - Employees:
 - Employees have been retested, 4 remain positive
 - 56 employees 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

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- 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.

Disaster Recovery Information

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.

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.

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Please share our Communications Resources

NEW: The DPH video “*How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home*” is now available in Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Haitian Creole and Vietnamese. Please share! ([Find The Videos Here](#))



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 • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Haitian Creole • Vietnamese

- [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
- Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.

How to Help Out

- [Donate](#) to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: [Please click here.](#)
- Get involved with the new Community Tracing Collaborative: [Please click here.](#)

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- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: [Please click here.](#)
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here.](#)
- Apply for Jobs at COVID-19 Temporary Care Sites [\(Details Here\).](#)

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, and if eligible, sign up to help. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued shelter in place declarations. 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