Thursday, June 11, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

The Command Center Situation Report is issued Monday-Friday.

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Governor Baker Tours Greater Boston Food Bank
- $41 Million in Support for Food Security Programs
- Public Health Data: Dashboard Indicators & Weekly Public Health Report
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- Reopening Massachusetts
- Jobs Available to Assist Long Term Care Facilities
- Get Involved: Community Contact Tracing Collaborative
- 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 6/11

104,667 Total Cases (click here for more information)

7,492 Deaths

678,925 patients tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States Last Updated 6/11

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:

1,994,283 Total Cases

112,967 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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

State Actions

COVID-19 Public Health Data

Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides and Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) President Catherine D'Amato for a tour of GBFB's main facility. After, the group provided a media availability on COVID-19 and food security efforts, including the opening of the new Food Security Infrastructure Grant program applications today. (See video here).

***Testing**:*

- Yesterday (June 10th) over 10,000 new tests were reported in Massachusetts with only 267 confirmed positive. Approximately 660,000 total tests have been completed to date.
    - The average positive test rate declined to 4.2% which, represents a significant reduction in positive cases since 4/15.

***Hospitalizations & Capacity**:*

- As of June 10th, 1,386 people have been hospitalized, a decline of more than 60% since mid-April.

Administration Announces Availability of $41 Million in Support for Food Security Programs (News Release)



The Baker-Polito Administration today announced $41 million to address urgent food insecurity for Massachusetts residents as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding implements the recommendations of the Food Security Task Force, which was convened by the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center in response to increased demands for food assistance. The task force is comprised of a broad group of public and private members charged with ensuring food insecurity and food supply needs are addressed during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Administration today opened applications for the new $36 million Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have access to fresh, local food. The Request for Responses for project proposals is available **here**.

The Administration also released a **Notice of Opportunity** to strategically onboard new agricultural vendors for the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), which will allow the Administration to leverage federal SNAP funding and $5 million in new state funding for the program.

The Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program was **announced on May 17** as part of a $56 million investment to combat food insecurity for Massachusetts families and individuals. In addition to expanding access to healthy local food, the program seeks to ensure that farmers, fishermen and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply disruption.

Eligible grantees include entities that are part of the Massachusetts local food system including production, processing and distribution, the emergency food distribution network, Buy Local, community and food organizations, school meal programming (including summer meal sponsors), urban farms and community

gardens, non-profits, and organizations that provide business planning, technical assistance and information technology services. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis through September 15, 2020.

Eligible proposals include, but are not limited to, projects seeking to:

- Increase capacity for food direct delivery;
- Increase capacity of food banks and food pantries;
- Increase capacity of local food distribution partners;
- Offer innovative solutions to enable those receiving SNAP and WIC benefits to receive food more easily;
- Offer innovative solutions for urban farming and;
- Help farms, retailers, fisheries and other food system businesses adapt to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to allow them to provide greater access to local food.

In addition to the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program, the Administration also announced $5 million in new funding for the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). To leverage this state funding, a Notice of Opportunity has been released to allow new agricultural vendors to apply to participate as HIP vendors. Eligible vendors include farmers' markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and community-supported agriculture farm share programs. Applicants will be evaluated on their ability to respond to the needs of communities and populations impacted by COVID-19, establish HIP access points in areas with limited existing HIP access points or other food access barriers, distribute food in ways that limit the transmission of the novel coronavirus while reaching vulnerable populations, and a demonstrated capacity and commitment to serve SNAP clients in culturally appropriate ways. Applications can be submitted through Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

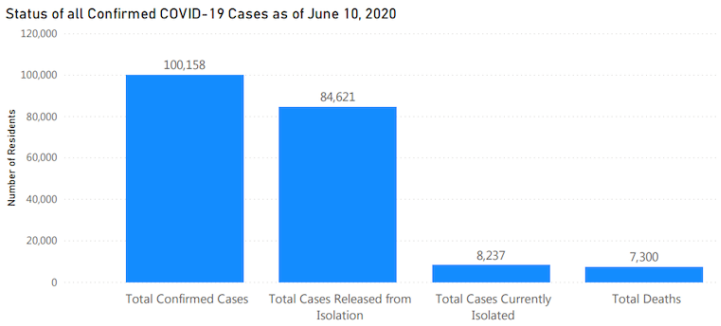
The work of the Food Security Task Force builds on Massachusetts' initiatives to increase access to food, including establishing emergency food distribution sites and school meal sites for food distribution, implementing Pandemic EBT to provide food to 500,000 youth who usually receive free or reduced priced lunch, distributing additional SNAP benefits to households, requesting online EBT purchasing approval from the federal government, and streamlining food benefit program administration.

New Weekly Public Health Data Posted

The Command Center released the comprehensive Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report yesterday. The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report, which is released on Wednesdays, includes town-by-town case and testing information, along with detailed case and death data related to long term care facilities. The report also includes information on nursing facility audits and more. You can find all the data reports by visiting the **COVID-19 Response Reporting page**. (Find the Data Files Here).

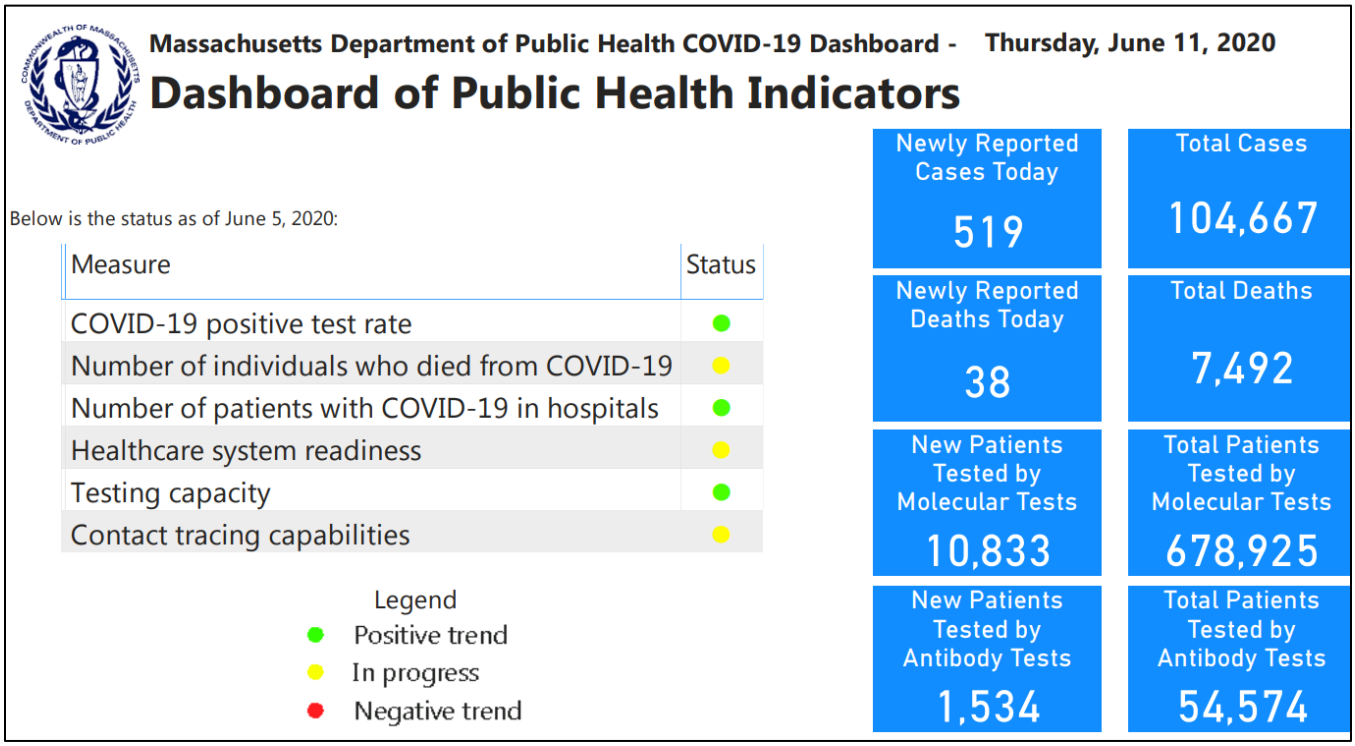
Data on Recoveries

Also, in the Weekly Report are data on the number of number of individuals deemed to have recovered from COVID-19. Residents who had a confirmed case of COVID-19, and are no longer in isolation, are considered for purposes of this report to be recovered. As part of this definition, DPH is counting people as released from isolation after 21 days of illness or 21 days past the date of their test in all settings including nursing homes and state facilities. You can find data on those who have recovered from COVID-19 on **page 22 of the report**.



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Key data reflected in today's Daily Dashboard is provided below:



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, June 11, 2020

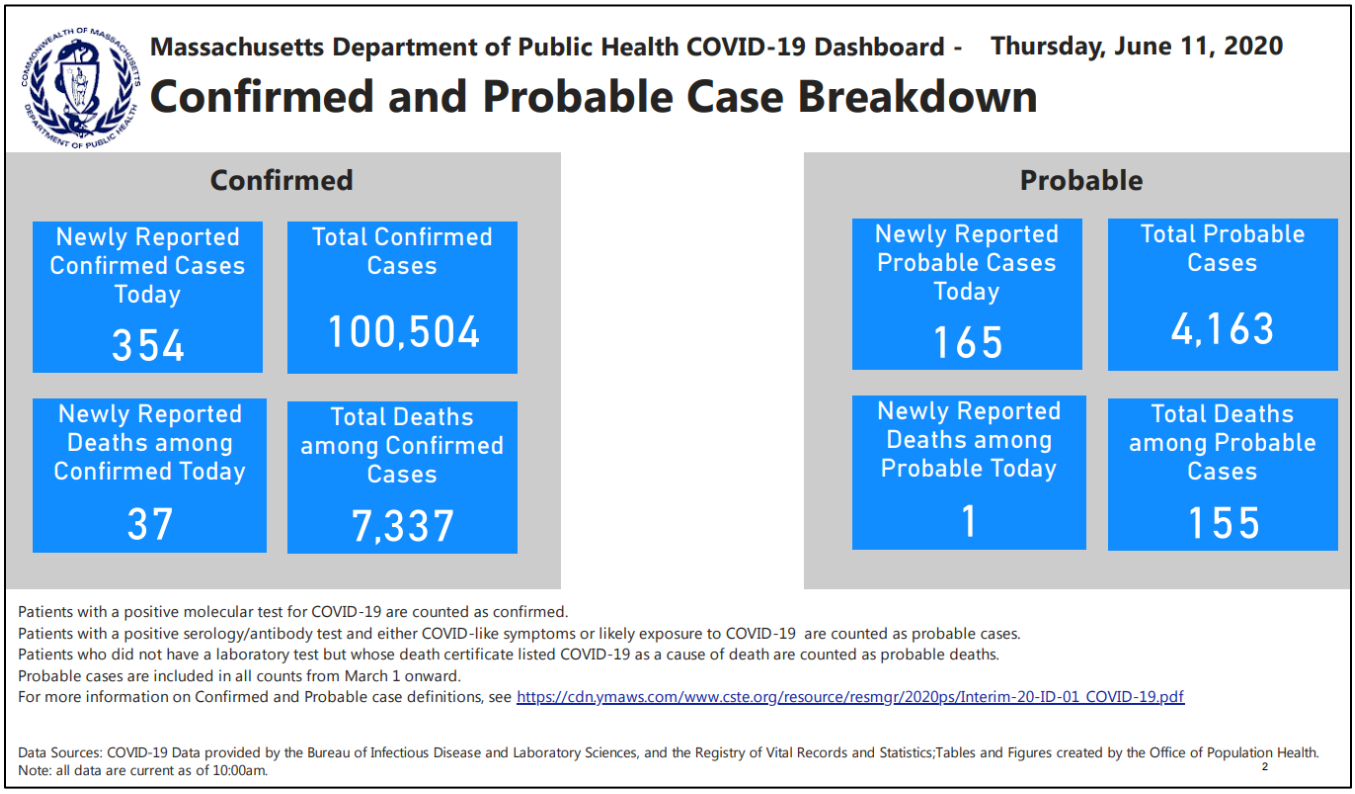
Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Below is the status as of June 5, 2020:

Measure	Status
COVID-19 positive test rate	●
Number of individuals who died from COVID-19	●
Number of patients with COVID-19 in hospitals	●
Healthcare system readiness	●
Testing capacity	●
Contact tracing capabilities	●

Legend
● Positive trend
● In progress
● Negative trend

Newly Reported Cases Today: 519	Total Cases: 104,667
Newly Reported Deaths Today: 38	Total Deaths: 7,492
New Patients Tested by Molecular Tests: 10,833	Total Patients Tested by Molecular Tests: 678,925
New Patients Tested by Antibody Tests: 1,534	Total Patients Tested by Antibody Tests: 54,574



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, June 11, 2020

Confirmed and Probable Case Breakdown

Confirmed

Newly Reported Confirmed Cases Today: 354	Total Confirmed Cases: 100,504
Newly Reported Deaths among Confirmed Today: 37	Total Deaths among Confirmed Cases: 7,337

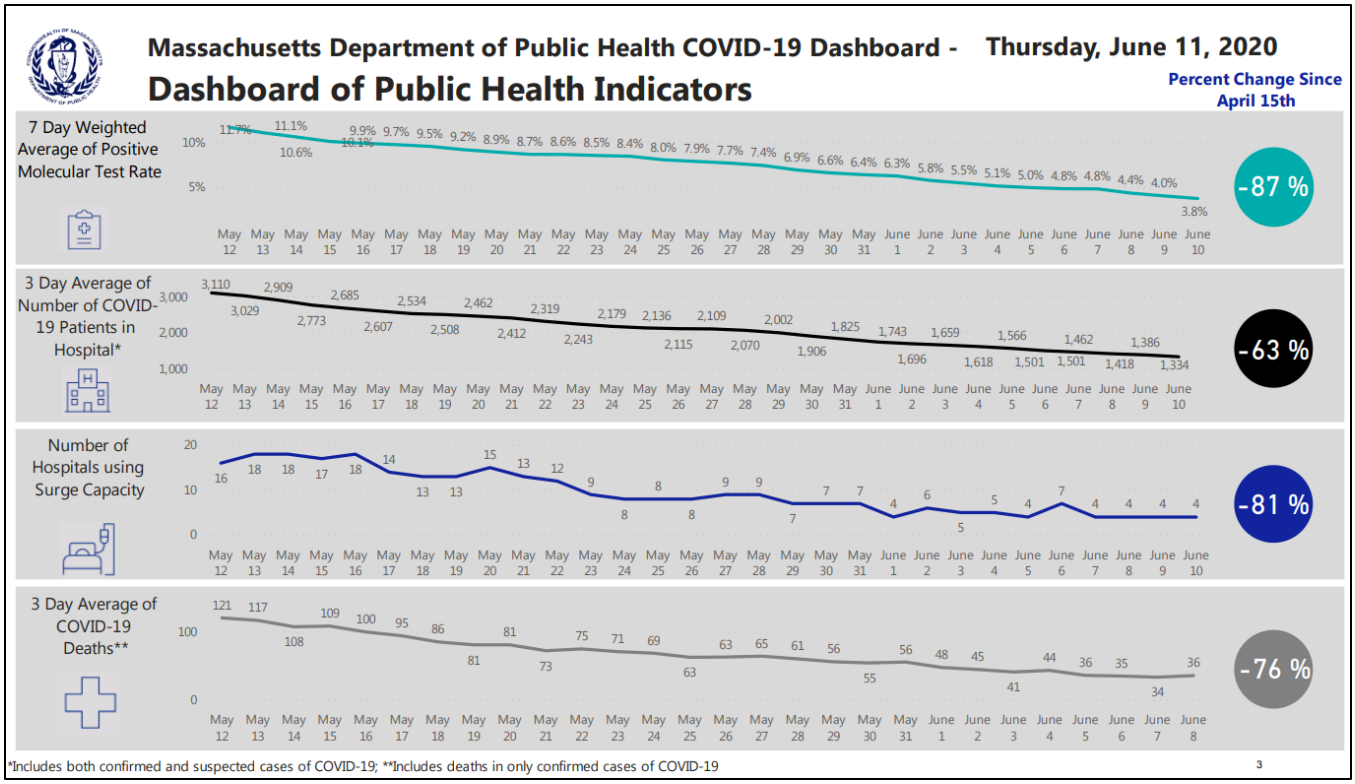
Probable

Newly Reported Probable Cases Today: 165	Total Probable Cases: 4,163
Newly Reported Deaths among Probable Today: 1	Total Deaths among Probable Cases: 155

Patients with a positive molecular test for COVID-19 are counted as confirmed.
Patients with a positive serology/antibody test and either COVID-like symptoms or likely exposure to COVID-19 are counted as probable cases.
Patients who did not have a laboratory test but whose death certificate listed COVID-19 as a cause of death are counted as probable deaths.
Probable cases are included in all counts from March 1 onward.
For more information on Confirmed and Probable case definitions, see https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2020ps/Interim-20-ID-01_COVID-19.pdf

Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, and the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics;Tables and Figures created by the Office of Population Health.
Note: all data are current as of 10:00am.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT



Important Updates

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

Note: The hours of operation for the Nursing Home/Long Term Care Family Resource Line have changed. **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
6/11	2,189	18
Total (as of 6/11)	**55,308**	**483**

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 6/11)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	**22,561**
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	**365**
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	**4,705**

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 6/11 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	12,371
Staff	18,039
Total Tests	**30,410**
Number of Locations	**2,005**



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- The Home continues its work to resume recreational activities for Veterans, and veterans continue to go outside today with nursing and recreation staff.
- In preparation for resuming limited visitation, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke retested all Veteran residents and staff. The Veteran resident results returned were largely negative - with only 3 remaining positive - a marked improvement and a promising sign of recovery. Staff testing results are forthcoming.
    - The Home is actively preparing to resume outdoor visitation per the state-issued guidelines on June 15, and on Monday of this week, shared visitation scheduling and protocols with families and loved ones. The Soldiers' Home is following visitation guidance, and is developing 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.
- At a Tuesday evening meeting of the Board of Trustees, Soldiers' Home leadership discussed moving into the Transition & Rebuilding Phase that is focused on rebuilding the organic 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 staff. 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.
- Staff continue to work with veterans on iPad training, as iPads are being used for regular family communication through video chat, 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.
- Governor Charlie Baker has advised flags be lowered to half-staff until the end of the public health emergency at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, as well as the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam and Winchendon due to the fact Military Honors are unavailable during this public health crisis.
- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke presented a virtual Memorial Day service, as part of the state's efforts to hold Memorial Day events virtually this year to honor military who have sacrificed for our country, and veterans who have passed in the last year. The program will continue to be available for viewing on their Facebook page.

- **All veteran residents have been retested, and the results as of June 11 are as follows:**
    - Retesting results of all residents:
        - 8 veteran residents are positive (across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center), and 2 results were inconclusive and are being treated as positive
        - 127 veteran residents have tested negative

  - Resident locations:
    - 102 residents are onsite
    - 28 residents are offsite
      - 27 residents are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
      - 1 resident is receiving acute care offsite
  - 94 veteran resident deaths (76 positive, 17 negatives, 1 unknown)
- Employees at the Home have been retested. There are only 2 positives remaining, and 4 inconclusive results, who will be retested.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- In preparation for resuming limited visitation, the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea retested all Veteran residents and staff. The Veteran resident results returned continue to be largely negative - with only 6 remaining positive. Staff testing results are forthcoming.
  - The Home is actively preparing to resume outdoor visitation per the state-issued guidelines on June 15, and on Monday of this week, shared visitation scheduling and protocols with families and loved ones. The Soldiers' Home is following visitation guidance, and is developing 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.
- As infection control remains a focus of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, the Chelsea Clinical Command continues to monitor and enforce staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as source new PPE, and over the past week has received shipments of gowns, masks, and hand sanitizer. We are also continuing to coordinate closely with the VA Health Care System.
- Video visits between veteran residents and their loved ones are continuing with support from the Chelsea Soldiers' Home Social Work team and staff. Families can 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.
- Governor Charlie Baker has advised flags be lowered to half-staff until the end of the public health emergency at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, as well as the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam and Winchendon due to the fact Military Honors are unavailable during this public health crisis.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea presented a virtual Memorial Day service, as part of the state's efforts to hold Memorial Day events virtually this year to honor military who have sacrificed for our country, and veterans who have passed in the last year. The program is still available for viewing on the Home's Facebook page.

- **All veteran residents have been retested, and the results as of June 11 are as follows:**
  - 6 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 207 veteran residents who have tested negative
  - 1 veteran resident has pending test results
  - 41 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 10 tested negative)
- All employees are being retested, and the cumulative results as of June 8 are: 60 employees have tested positive. These results will be updated when all staff testing results are received.

Resources

COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Sites

The Commonwealth's COVID-19 Command Center and MEMA have stood up regional isolation and recovery sites located in hotels across the state. Providers or individuals from Boston can access isolation sites by calling (617) 534-5050. Individuals who do not live in Boston can access Isolation & Recovery Sites in Lexington, Everett, Taunton, and Northampton by calling (617) 367-5150 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

More information, to include clinical and financial eligibility, can be found here.

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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

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:

- How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home
  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**.
- 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 to learn more, and if eligible, sign up to help.

We are also encouraging people who have not had COVID-19 to schedule and keep appointments to donate blood or platelets to ensure a stable blood supply during this pandemic. Donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. 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

Requests for Red Cross Emergency Response

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross (ARC) of Massachusetts is committed to fulfilling our Mission of providing emergency relief to our neighbors following a home fire or other disaster. We have implemented temporary changes to our response protocols. ARC we will be responding to your requests for service with a virtual response and ask your assistance in sharing this information with your Incident Commanders and Dispatch Center personnel.

Notification: Continue to request a response by contacting our long-standing emergency line **800-564-1234.**

When calling: Please have contact information for the head of household for each displaced family unit.
A point of contact from the Fire Department or Emergency Management on-scene that we can coordinate with if needed. Quick assessment as to extent of damage.

What we will do:

- Contact each head of household by phone or video chat. Open a virtual case for each affected family.
- Arrange for lodging if needed.
- Deliver a Client Assistance Card (financial assistance) to hotel, family member's home, etc.
- Provide Recovery guidance and assistance in the days following the incident.

If a virtual response is not possible, we will send a minimal number of Red Cross volunteers to the scene to orchestrate the virtual intake process. We value our partnership with your department and encourage you to contact us with any questions.