Thursday, November 5, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

The Command Center Situation Report is published weekly on Thursdays.



On Monday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a series of targeted measures to disrupt an increasing trend of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Massachusetts. Learn more about this and other topics in this week's Command Center Situation Report.

In This Week's Report:

- Latest Data: Public Health Update
- Week in Review: Key State Actions
  - Targeted Measures to Curb Rising COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations Take Effect Friday
  - DPH Revises COVID-19 Daily Dashboard
  - Veterans Day Virtual Ceremony
  - DPH, Emergency Management, and Disaster Recovery Updates
  - Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Weekly Update

Helpful Links:

- Tips for a Safe Thanksgiving
- Mass.gov/findfoodhelp
- Stop the Spread
- HandHoldMA.org
- Reopening Massachusetts
- Mass.Gov/covid19
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Unemployment & COVID-19
- Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal
- Emergency Childcare Site
- COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance

Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts current as of 11/5

160,698 Total Confirmed Cases (click here for more information)

9,859 Deaths among confirmed cases

6,461,311 tests for the virus conducted to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals, and commercial laboratories.

United States Last Updated 11/5

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:

9,463,782 Total Cases

233,129 Deaths

56 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, 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:

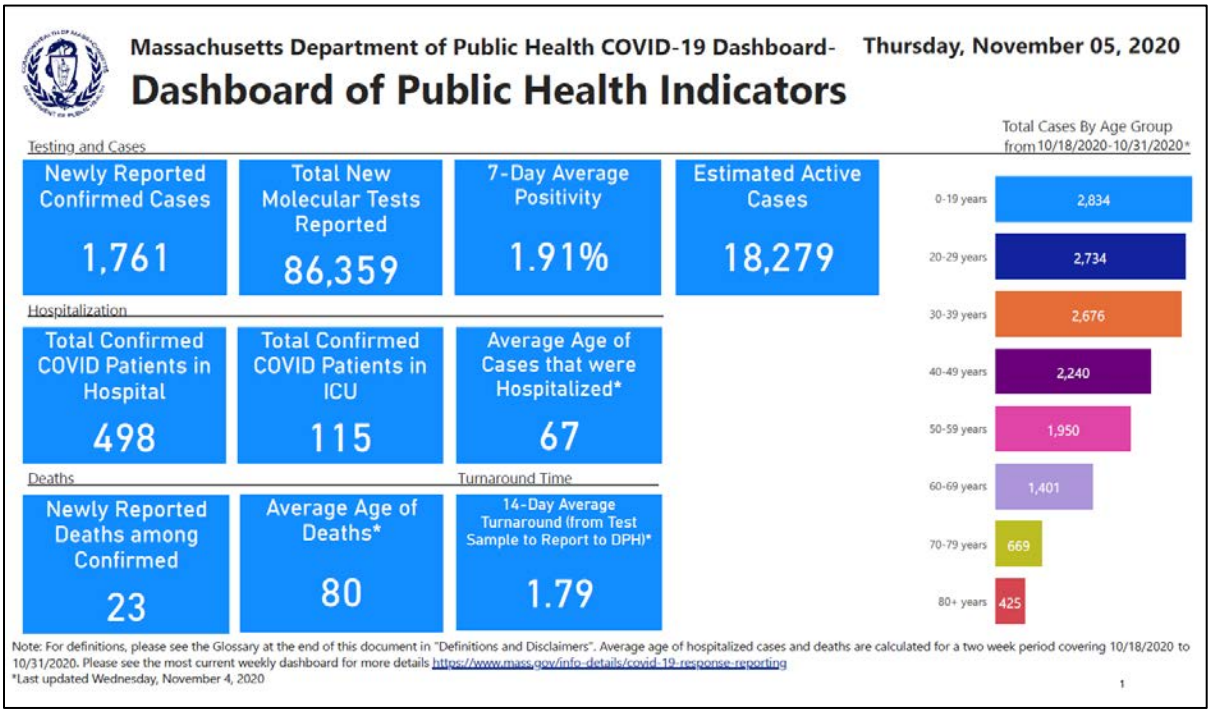
- ✓ Avoid crowds
- ✓ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ✓ Don't shake hands or hug
- ✓ Wear a face covering or mask if physical distancing is not possible.

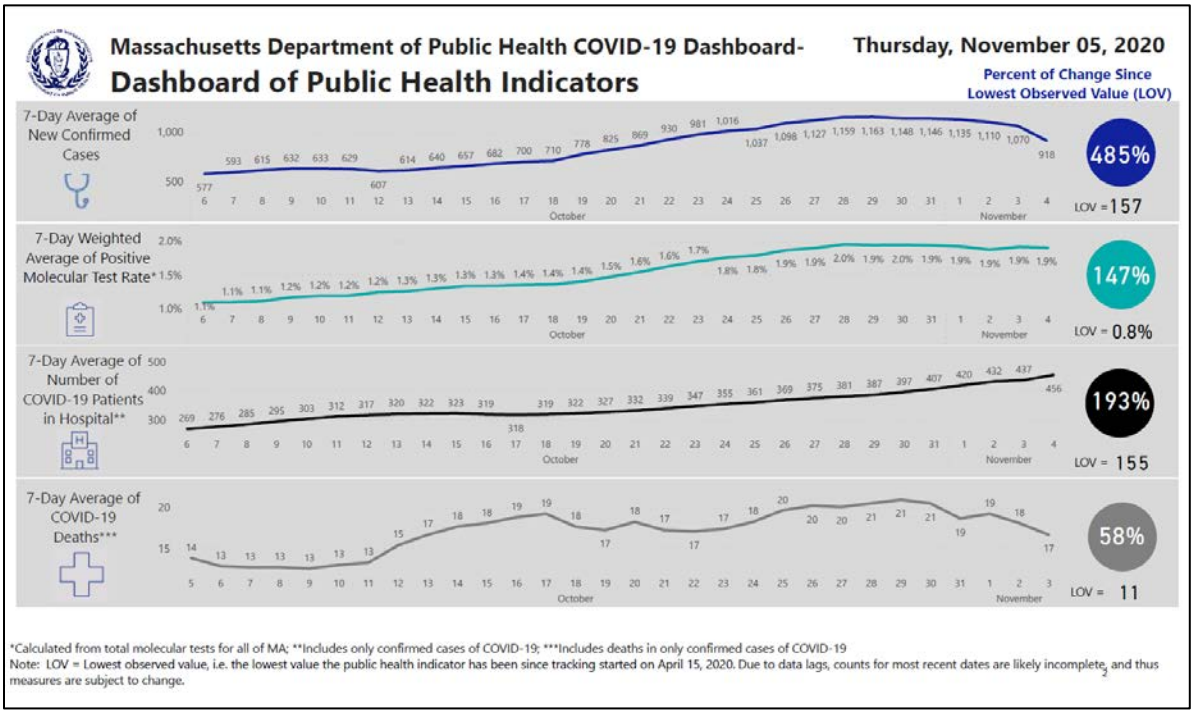
Latest Data: COVID-19 Public Health Update

***Testing Update**:*

Today, over **86,000** new molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with **1,761** newly reported confirmed positive cases. The total number of molecular tests administered to date is over **6.4 million**.

***Hospitalizations & Capacity Update**:* As of today, **498** people are hospitalized, with **115** reported to be in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Key indicators from today's Daily Dashboard are below.





COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Updates on the Weekly Public Health Report:
PLEASE NOTE: Today's Weekly Public Health Report does not include town by town information, including the weekly listing of city and town risk levels. The Command Center will publish updated data on Friday, November 6. The report posted today does include granular information on cases by county, biweekly testing rates, contact tracing information (including active COVID cluster information by Exposure Setting Type), hospitalization data, race and ethnicity data, information about cases in long term care facilities, and PPE distribution data.

Week in Review: State Actions

Targeted Measures Announced to Curb Rising COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations:
On Monday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a series of targeted measures to disrupt the increasing trend of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Governor Charlie Baker announced these changes at a time where public health data has indicated that cases are rising, with cases up by 278% and hospitalizations up by 145% since Labor Day. These measures are meant to disrupt rising trends now, so the Commonwealth can keep the economy and schools open for residents and to prevent the need to roll back to Phase I or Phase II of the reopening plan.



All orders and advisories will be effective **Friday, November 6th at 12:01 AM**.

New Orders & Advisories:

Stay At Home Advisory: The Administration issued a revised Stay At Home Advisory to ensure residents avoid unnecessary activities that can lead to increased COVID-19 transmission. The revised Stay At Home Advisory instructs residents to stay home between 10 PM and 5 AM. The Advisory allows for activities such as going to work, running critical errands to get groceries and address health needs, and taking a walk.
Click here to read the revised Stay At Home Advisory: www.mass.gov/stayhome.

Early Closure of Businesses and Activities: Governor Baker issued a new executive order that requires the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 PM. The 9:30 PM closure requirement is aligned with the Stay At Home Advisory and together the two new initiatives are designed to further limit activities that could lead to COVID-19 transmission.
Effective November 6, the following businesses and activities must close to the public each day between the hours of 9:30 PM and 5:00 AM.

- Restaurants (in-person dining must cease at 9:30 PM, although takeout and delivery may continue for food and non-alcoholic beverages, but not alcohol)
- Liquor stores and other retail establishments that sell alcohol must cease alcohol sales at 9:30 PM (but may continue to sell other products)
- Adult-use marijuana sales must cease at 9:30 PM (not including medical marijuana)
- Indoor & outdoor events
- Theaters/movie theaters (including drive-in movie theaters), and performance venues (indoor and outdoor)
- Youth and adult amateur sports activities
- Golf facilities

- Recreational boating and boating businesses
- Outdoor recreational experiences
- Casinos and horse tracks/simulcast facilities
- Driving and flight schools
- Zoos, botanical gardens, wildlife reserves, nature centers
- Close contact personal services (such as hair and nail salons)
- Gyms, Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Indoor and outdoor pools
- Museums/cultural & historical facilities/guided tours

Click here to read the new executive order (including full list of businesses required to close at 9:30 PM).

Face Covering Order: Governor Baker also signed an updated order related to face-coverings. The revised order requires all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others. The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition. Click here to read the revised face-coverings order.

Gatherings Order: Governor Baker also signed an updated order restricting gatherings. The new gatherings order reduces the gathering size limit for gatherings at private residences: indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people. The limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues (e.g. wedding venues) remains the same. The new order also requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30 PM.
The new gatherings order also requires that organizers of gatherings report known positive COVID-19 cases to the local health department in that community and requires organizers to cooperate with contact tracing. The gatherings order authorizes continued enforcement by local health and police departments and specifies that fines for violating the gathering order will be $500 for each person above the limit at a particular gathering. Click here to read the revised gatherings order.

Command Center Uses Notification System to Remind Public About Health Measures Taking Effect Friday
Today, the COVID-19 Command Center sent out a message via the Everbridge Resident Connection Alerts MA System reminding residents of the serious risk that COVID-19 poses to the Commonwealth. These alerts are sent as a phone call or text message. Residents were also be reminded of new measures announced by Governor Charlie Baker this week including a revised State at Home Advisory, which goes into effect on Friday, November 6. The alert is expected to reach approximately 4.5 million phones, including cell and landlines. The voice message was sent this evening from Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH and was delivered in English and Spanish.

Residents can choose to receive future messages by text, email, or phone in their preferred language by opting in at **mass.gov/covidalerts**.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

DPH Revises COVID-19 Daily Dashboard:

On Monday, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) released a revised COVID-19 daily dashboard. This revised dashboard will continue to provide critical information for the public's understanding of the current and cumulative impact of the pandemic in Massachusetts, reflecting the metrics that are most useful to track on a daily basis. The Commonwealth already produces one of the most comprehensive public data reports on COVID-19 in the nation and includes detailed municipal-level, college and university, contact tracing, long-term care facilities, and, most recently, cluster data.

The revised dashboard will help the public more easily access the Commonwealth's growing amount of COVID-19 information as the Department prepares to launch an interactive digital dashboard early next year.

A key new data point presented in the dashboard is "Case Growth by Age Group," which will help contextualize the impact of COVID on different age ranges over time. The Commonwealth is currently seeing a larger proportion of cases in younger people compared to earlier in the pandemic.

The dashboard will now include the average turnaround time for COVID-19 test results to be reported to the Department, so contact tracing can begin. The dashboard will also now report the impact of college and university-testing to greater clarify how this testing impacts the Commonwealth's overall positivity rate and case numbers.

Today's updated dashboard provides a more granular look into the daily positivity rate. Since August, the Commonwealth's universities have been conducting at least 25,000 daily tests of students, faculty, and staff. While this testing has helped to control the spread of COVID on college campuses, it has also impacted the overall positivity rate. Starting today, the dashboard will include three positivity rates: the overall state positivity rate, the positivity rate on college campuses, and the statewide positivity rate excluding on-campus testing.

Many existing data points, including testing, deaths, and hospitalization rates, have been reorganized to report on current numbers, trends over the past six weeks, and trends going back to March.

Going forward, the daily dashboard will be posted at 5 p.m. The daily dashboard, Weekly Public Health Report, raw data feeds, and other COVID-19 data and information can be found at www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting.

Veterans Day Virtual Ceremony:

On Wednesday, November 11, the Baker-Polito Administration will celebrate Veterans Day with a virtual ceremony. The virtual Veterans Day ceremony will include speakers and musical performers from across the Commonwealth, remarks by Governor Baker, a tribute from our military, and more. The event will be streamed on **mass.gov/VeteransDay2020**, Department of Veterans' Services and Soldiers' Homes' Facebook pages, and made available to media outlets for streaming/broadcast.



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Important Updates

Department of Public Health Updates:

- Keep updated on preparations for a COVID-19 vaccine at www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine, including an Executive Summary of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Plan.
- Tips for a Safe Thanksgiving flyer is available online in 11 languages.
- Visit the DPH Academic Public Health Volunteers Corps web page to learn more about APHVC and view some examples developed by the volunteers. There are currently 280 APHVC volunteers supporting 45 local boards of health.
- MA211 received 3,643 calls from Wednesday 10/28 through Sunday 11/1 for a new total of 141,066.
- On 11/2, DPH received 99,640 Abbott BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Tests, which is the fifth shipment received from this HHS distribution of rapid point-of-care tests.
- DPH issued the following guidance to Nursing Homes: Updates to Visitation Conditions, Communal Dining, and Congregate Activities in Long-Term Care Facilities during the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- DPH issued COVID-19 Resurgence Planning and Response Guidance for Acute Care Hospitals to facilitate regional collaboration among health care providers, consistent with DPH guidance, to address capacity constraints and avoid mandatory service reductions or closures wherever possible. The DPH Acute Care Hospital COVID-19 Resurgence Planning and Response Attestation is applicable to acute care hospitals and must be completed by November 16.
- For the date range of 10/23-10/29, 93 of 96 Massachusetts hospitals were 100% compliant in their COVID-19 data submissions to the DPH WebEOC portal which is submitted to the federal HHS Protect portal daily.

Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Updates:

Mass Care

- 1 state contracted isolation/recovery hotel in the city of Everett continues to receive client placements.
  - Currently 48 residents are housed in this hotel (+1 change since last Thursday)
  - The hotel is currently at **41% occupancy.**
  - To date, a total of 727 residents have been placed in this hotel for safe isolation and recovery

Emergency Food Box Program: To support immediate food insecurity needs in Massachusetts, MEMA was charged by the COVID-19 Command Center's Food Security Task Force with coordinating the Emergency Food Box Program. This program was established back in April to provide emergency food, in the form of shelf stable food boxes, to the Commonwealth's four major food banks as a relief valve. While delivery of food boxes coming into the food banks have ceased due to the program coming to an end, any remaining food box inventory continues to be distributed. Below is an update on the program.

Food Bank/ MEMA Warehouse	Total Number of Food Boxes Received to Date	Total Number of Food Boxes Distributed to Date	Total Number of Food Boxes Remaining in Inventory
Food Bank of Western MA	31259	31259	0
Greater Boston Food Bank	206592	204096	2496
Merrimack Valley Food Bank	3312	3312	0
Worcester County Food Bank	1440	1429	11
MEMA Warehouse (Reserve)	37938	36869	1069
Total Food Boxes	**280,541**	**276,965**	**3,576**

Logistics (including Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies)

- MEMA coordinated 30 deliveries prepared for pick up or delivery between October 30 and November 5.
- MDPH coordinated 18 deliveries to health care entities on Tuesday (11/3) (6 PPE/13 testing supplies – 1 facility requested both), and 7 deliveries have been scheduled for Friday (11/6) (1 PPE/6 testing supplies).
- Support for the COVID-19 Enforcement and Intervention Team program continued this week, with 141,750 KN-95 masks, 1,656 pairs of heavy-duty gloves, and 25,200 packs of alcohol-based hand wipes distributed to 7 locations.
- The warehouse is preparing a distribution of 520,000 KN-95 masks to police departments across the Commonwealth next week to support efforts following Governor Baker's recent Executive Order on requirements around masks.

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:

FEMA Public Assistance Program

Data as of: 11/2/2020

MEMA COVID-19 EXECUTIVE DASHBOARD

AGGREGATE PROGRAM VIEW

Note: Financial data represents 75% federal cost share; figures do not include MEMA management cost allowance

Overall (Best Available Estimate)	Submitted (Eligibility & Cost Review)	Approved (by FEMA)	Paid (by MEMA)
$582.3M -$28.59M	$412.9M +$237.65M	$7.4M +$0.11M	$6.9M $0.00M
793 Projects +6	507 Projects +9	36 Projects +4	30 Projects 0

Approved Applicants: 598

- On Nov. 1, 2020, FEMA approved a 30-day extension for Non-Congregate Sheltering under major disaster declaration FEMA-4496-DR-MA. Non-Congregate Sheltering has been approved through November 30, 2020.
- MEMA's $315,815,794.86 ($236,861,845 federal share) PPE Project Worksheet (submission to FEMA) was sent for FEMA review on November 2, 2020.
- Collaborated with DESE to provide targeted FEMA Public Assistance guidance to private educational institutions statewide.

- Collaborated with DHCD to provide targeted FEMA Public Assistance guidance to Local Housing Authorities.

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 11/5)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	**25,838**
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	**391**
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	**6,464**



Holyoke Soldiers' Home Weekly Update (current as of 11/3/20)

- Governor Charlie Baker has announced the appointment of Major General Gary W. Keefe, and Lieutenant Colonel Mark A. Bigda, D.O., to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke Board of Trustees. Brigadier General Sean T. Collins was appointed to the Board last July. Together, these individuals represent extensive experience in the military and health care, have a direct connection to Western and Central Massachusetts, and a commitment to serve the Commonwealth's veterans.
- Maj. Gen. Keefe will serve a seven-year term, replacing former Trustee Christopher Dupont, whose term ended in July. Lt. Col. Bigda will serve until July 2022, serving the remainder of former Trustee Cesar Lopez's term following his resignation in September. Brig. Gen. Collins will serve until July 2024, serving the remainder of former Trustee Richard Girard's term following his resignation in June.
- Phase II of the Refresh Project to enhance residential units, an important initiative to ensure infection control continues to be met and that care areas are clean, safe, and comfortable, began for the second floor on Monday, October 19. Phase I of the Refresh Project is complete and the veterans from the second floor have successfully and safely moved to their new rooms on the third floor.
- 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. Over the past weeks, the Home welcomed new permanent leadership and staff positions including a Chief Operating Officer, Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing, an Occupational Health Nurse, and more.
- The health of all veteran residents of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is being constantly monitored. Regular surveillance and diagnostic testing are routine and ongoing for veterans and surveillance testing for staff.
- On Thursday, October 29, 2020, a non-clinical staff member of the Home tested positive for COVID-19 during this week's routine staff surveillance testing. Per infection control protocol, Veterans cannot move throughout the facility and the Home is cancelling visitation for two weeks, beginning on Thursday, October 29. At this time, the Home plans to resume visitation on Thursday, November 12, 2020 if there are no new positive COVID-19 cases.
    - The staff member was asymptomatic and was immediately sent home. This staff member does not provide direct care to residents but does work on direct care units.

  - Veterans and families on the affected units have been called and all residents and family have been sent a written notification. Please note the Soldiers' Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file.
  - All staff members are required to wear N95 masks and face shields throughout their shift and full PPE is required going in and out of each veteran's room.
  - Families and loved ones can schedule virtual visits with veterans using the Family Line.
- This temporary suspension of visitation does affect previously planned extended visitation for Veterans Day, and we encourage families and loves ones to schedule video visits. After visitation resumes, the Home plans to add a Sunday visitation during the week of Veterans Day.
- Veteran and Family Advisory Council meetings will resume in November. The Family Advisory Council will meet on Thursday, November 19, 2020, and the Veterans Advisory council will meet on Thursday, November 12, 2020. The Veteran and Family Advisory Councils will be run by veterans and families with assistance from the Soldiers' Home.
  - The Advisory Council helps the Home partner with veterans and families to provide constructive guidance amongst diverse perspectives and lived experiences.
  - Through the feedback from the Veterans and Family Council, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke hopes to integrate ideas into service delivery and quality improvement efforts to positively impact family and veteran-centered care.
- In addition to mandatory testing at state-operated 24/7 facilities, daily symptom checking and routine staff surveillance testing are important tools to protect staff, residents and visitors and will remain in place until such time there is a medical breakthrough or a safe and effective vaccine for COVID 19. Staff who are not feeling well are instructed not to come to work and to contact their health care provider. If staff show any signs of COVID-symptoms, they are required to self-quarantine at home, per CDC guidance for health care workers.
- 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. All veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is being conducted for veterans both on- and off-site as clinically appropriate.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- The Baker-Polito Administration is in the midst of the expedited capital project to reimagine the future of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, led by architecture firm Payette. The project team has gathered input from a broad community of stakeholders as part of the Rapid Planning Phase, in addition to working on the needs assessment, the clinical options, and the facility's infrastructure. This work will inform the development of the implementation plan to meet the April 15, 2021 federal Veterans' Affairs' State Home Construction Grant application deadline.
  - The website for the project is www.mass.gov/HolyokeSHProject, and the online survey to gather input can be taken here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WCX32P2.
- 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 status of all residents as of November 3 is as follows:
  - Status:

        - 0 positive and not clinically recovered
        - 56 veterans are negative
        - 1 resident have a pending test
        - 74 residents have been determined clinically recovered
        - 1 resident has refused testing
    - Resident locations:
        - 108 veterans are onsite
        - 24 veterans are offsite
            - 22 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
            - 2 veterans are receiving acute care offsite
    - Since March 1, there have been 76 veteran deaths of veterans who tested positive
    - From the most recent round of staff surveillance testing
        - 1 tested positive
        - All others who previously tested positive are clinically recovered

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Weekly Update (current as of 11/3/20)

- Long Term Care veterans have moved into their new private spaces following the completion of a short-term ward conversation project at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea to enhance infection control and resident safety. This project will also incorporate negative air pressure to improve airflow, which will be utilized until the opening of the Community Living Center (Fall 2022). The Home has released a live link for families and staff to virtually tour newly designed private spaces for veteran residents in the Long Term Care: Click here to view a virtual tour of these areas.
- Visitation at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea continues between veterans and loved ones. Following visitation guidance, 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.
    - 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.
- Clinical staff closely monitor any changes in residents, and 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.
    - Since the start of the pandemic, more than 40 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.
    - Individuals are determined recovered according to CDC guidance, and may test positive even after being clinically recovered. This is a known consequence of the PCR test, which is extremely sensitive to picking up virus or viral remnants even weeks after recovery.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea currently conducts bi-weekly staff surveillance testing. In accordance with the recent CMS Interim Rule, the Soldiers' Home is now conducting weekly testing until the facility is 14 days without positive test results. These tests are provided at no cost to employees.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea monitors the PPE supply, and continues to receive shipments of PPE. 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 status as of November 3 is as follows:
  - Residents
    - 0 veteran residents are positive
    - 143 veteran residents are negative
    - 41 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
  - Following the most recent round of staff surveillance testing:
    - 1 employee is positive
    - All other employees who previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered

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 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 map 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.

Communications Resources

Public Messaging Resources for Higher-Risk Communities

- Public messaging graphics & guidelines for use in your community

DPH Communication Materials in Multiple Languages

- **Facts Sheets**
- **Videos**

How to Help Out

- Donate to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: **Please click 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. 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