Thursday, September 17, 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
  - Massachusetts Residents Urged to Get Flu Vaccination
  - College and University Testing Data Added to COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report
  - Extension of Administrative Tax Relief for Local Businesses
  - Updated list of COVID-19 lower-risk states
  - DPH, Emergency Management, and Disaster Recovery Updates
  - Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Weekly Update

Helpful Links:

- Stop COVID-19
- COVID-19 Travel Order
- Returning to School Safely
- Mass.gov/findfoodhelp
- Stop the Spread
- 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

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 9/17

124,139 Total Confirmed Cases (click here for more information)

9,051 Deaths among confirmed cases

2,024,306 individuals tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States Last Updated 9/17

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:

6,613,331 Total Cases

196,277 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.

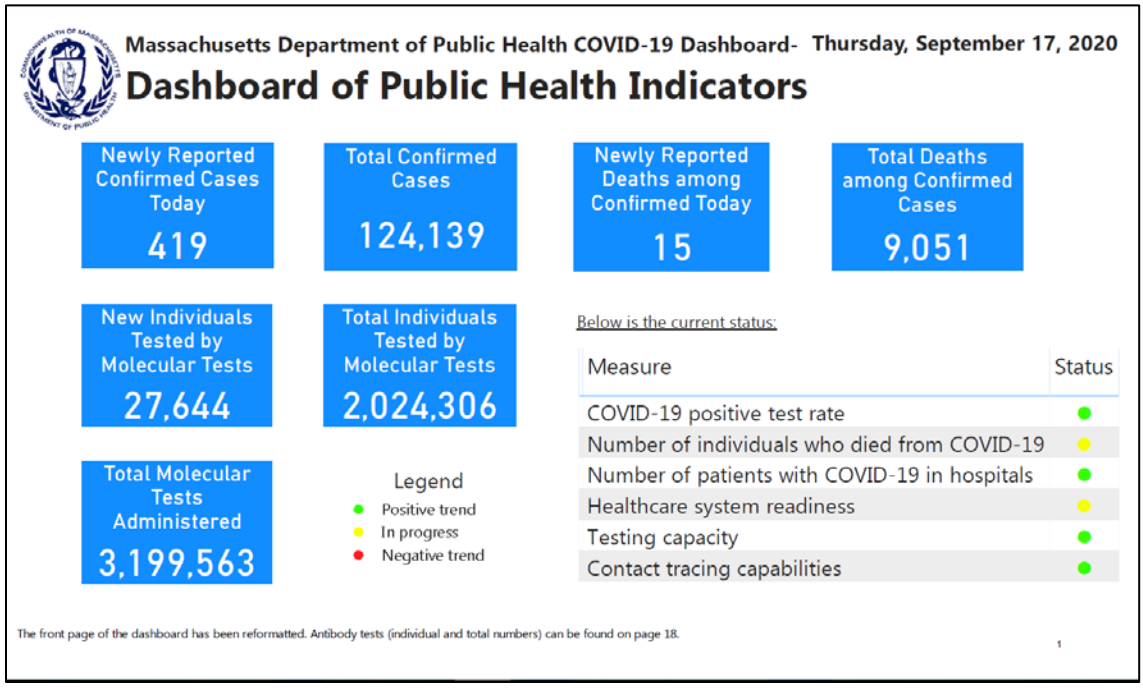
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

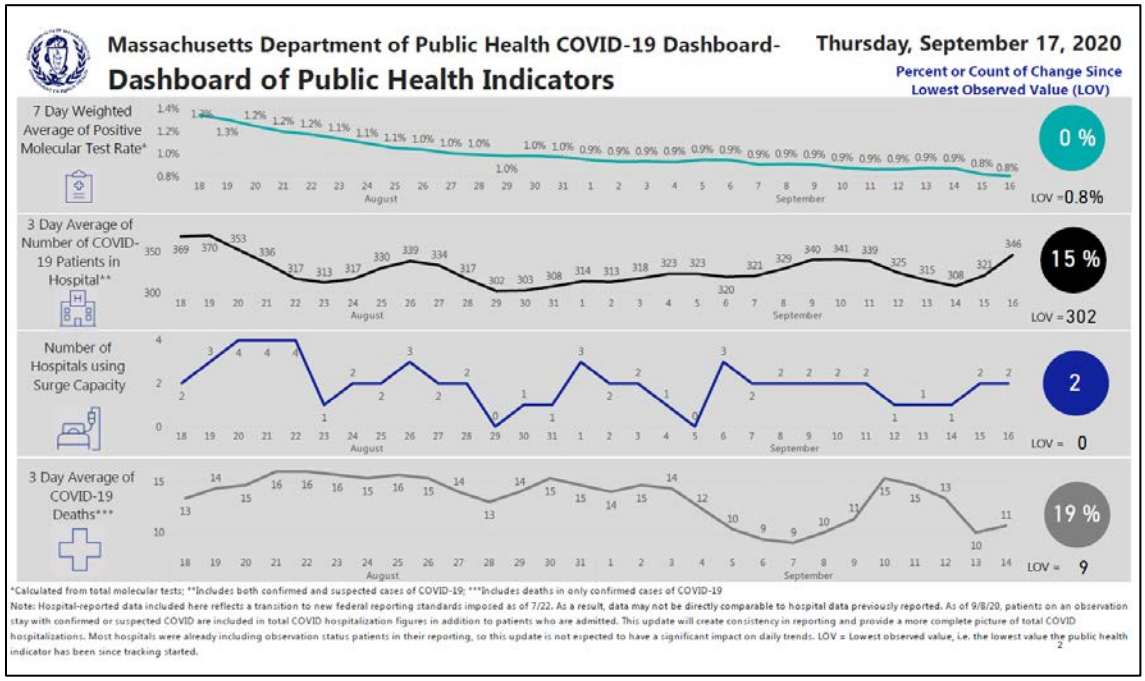
Latest Data: COVID-19 Public Health Update

***Testing Update**:*

Today, over than **27,000** new individuals tested by molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with **419** newly reported confirmed positive cases. The total molecular tests administered to date is nearly **3.2 million**.

***Hospitalizations & Capacity Update**:* As of today, **377** people are hospitalized, with **64** reported to be in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Key indicators from today's Daily Dashboard are below.





New Weekly Public Health Data Report Released

Yesterday, the Command Center released the comprehensive **COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report**, including community-specific COVID-19 case and testing data. The report also includes risk categories for each city and town based on the average daily incident rate over the past 14 days. Communities in the high-risk category will receive additional support from the Commonwealth through a cross-agency COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team (CEIT).

DPH has also posted an archive of previously released city and town data dating back to April on the COVID-19 reporting page. The Weekly Public Health Report includes also includes data on recoveries, along with detailed case and death data related to long term care facilities. The report also includes information on nursing facility staff baseline testing, infection control audits, and more. You can also find information related to contact tracing by local boards of health, and the Community Tracing Collaborative. All the data reports, and raw data files, are available by visiting the **COVID-19 Response Reporting page**.

Week in Review: State Actions

Massachusetts Residents Urged to Get Flu Vaccination



Today, Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, joined by MinuteClinic Chief Medical Officer Dr. David Fairchild, visited a CVS Pharmacy in Roslindale to receive flu shots and highlight the importance of getting vaccinated this year. CVS also **announced today** it is expanding COVID-19 testing sites at several of its locations across Massachusetts beginning tomorrow (9/18).

Last month, the Baker-Polito Administration announced **a requirement** that all students attending kindergarten through college must have a flu immunization by December 31. The requirement also applies to children over six months of age attending child care. Exemptions may be made for medical or religious reasons.

In addition, the state adopted a policy, based on the federal PREP Act, which enables qualified pharmacy staff to administer a flu shot to children as young as three years old. The previous minimum age in Massachusetts was nine.

Flu can be very serious. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that influenza has resulted in between 9 million – 45 million illnesses, between 140,000 – 810,000 hospitalizations and between 12,000 – 61,000 deaths annually since 2010. In Massachusetts, during the 2019-2020 flu season more than 40,000 confirmed cases were reported to the Department of Public Health (DPH), with 55,000-60,000 emergency department visits for flu, resulting in 7,000-8,000 hospitalizations. DPH will begin its annual flu surveillance reporting for the 2020-2021 on October 9.

In anticipation of increased demand for flu shots this year, public health officials have been working to increase the vaccine supply. Over the past several years, DPH has purchased approximately 900,000 doses annually. This year the Commonwealth will receive 1,156,000 doses, a 28 percent increase.

DPH recommends people:

- Get a flu vaccine as soon as possible. The flu vaccine is widely available across the state, including at health care provider offices, pharmacies, school and workplace vaccination clinics, and flu vaccine clinics

sponsored by local boards of health. A list of flu vaccine availability based on zip code can be found at **vaccinefinder.org**.

- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly and use hand sanitizer when washing is not possible.
- Always cover your cough, and sneeze into your sleeve – not your hands.
- Stay home when you are sick with fever and a cough or sore throat and keep children home from school and daycare when they are sick.
- Contact your healthcare provider promptly if you think you have the flu, especially if you have health conditions that make you more likely to develop severe illness when sick with the flu. The provider may prescribe antiviral medications, which work best when started early in the course of illness.

The most common symptoms of flu are fever, cough, and sore throat. Symptoms can also include body aches, headache, chills, runny nose, and fatigue. Some people are at higher risk of serious health problems when they get flu, including pregnant women, infants, older adults, and people with medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, neurological and neuromuscular conditions, and weakened immune systems.

Flu vaccination reduces the risk of flu-associated death by half among children with underlying high-risk medical conditions and by nearly two-thirds among healthy children. Nationwide, there were 188 pediatric deaths from flu last year.

For more information about influenza, visit **www.mass.gov/flu**, or call your health care provider, local board of health, or DPH at (617) 983-6800.

College and University Testing Data Added to COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report

The Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center has announced that higher education data from COVID-19 testing will be reported on a weekly basis on the state's COVID-19 dashboard. This week's report includes aggregate data from 59 colleges and universities doing testing on campus.

Beginning with yesterday's report, the COVID-19 Weekly Public Health report published each Wednesday will include a report on the number of tests performed, positive cases, percent positivity, and the percent of new cases identified through testing by public and private colleges and universities. As additional colleges and universities launch COVID-19 testing initiatives, results from those tests will be added to this report.

Starting in mid-August, higher education institutions across the state implemented regular testing programs for their students, faculty and staff, the results of which have been included in the COVID-19 Daily Dashboard. DPH will continue to report these results in the Daily Dashboard, in addition to providing specific information on college and university testing in the Weekly Public Health report.

Massachusetts continues to be a national leader in ensuring access to COVID-19 testing, with a network of over 250 sites across the state. The Commonwealth has also increased access to testing with its Stop the Spread initiative, which provides free asymptomatic testing in targeted communities. Throughout the summer, the Commonwealth has significantly increased testing volume, with over 3 million tests completed. Learn more about testing at www.mass.gov/gettested.

For further information and resources regarding COVID-19 response at Massachusetts colleges and universities, including links to individual campus websites and the COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan, please click here. You can learn more about the Commonwealth's health and safety standards for higher education institutions by clicking here.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Extension of Administrative Tax Relief for Local Businesses

On Tuesday, Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Robert DeLeo announced an extension of administrative tax relief measures for local businesses that have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, especially in the restaurant and hospitality sectors.

This includes the extension of the deferral of regular sales tax, meals tax, and room occupancy taxes for small businesses due from March 2020 through April 2021, so that they will instead be due in May 2021. Businesses that collected less than $150,000 in regular sales plus meals taxes in the twelve month period ending February 29, 2020 will be eligible for relief for sales and meals taxes, and businesses that collected less than $150,000 in room occupancy taxes in the twelve month period ending February 29, 2020 will be eligible for relief with respect to room occupancy taxes. For these small businesses, no penalties or interest will accrue during this extension period.

For businesses with meals tax and room occupancy tax obligations that do not otherwise qualify for this relief, late-file and late-pay penalties will be waived during this period.

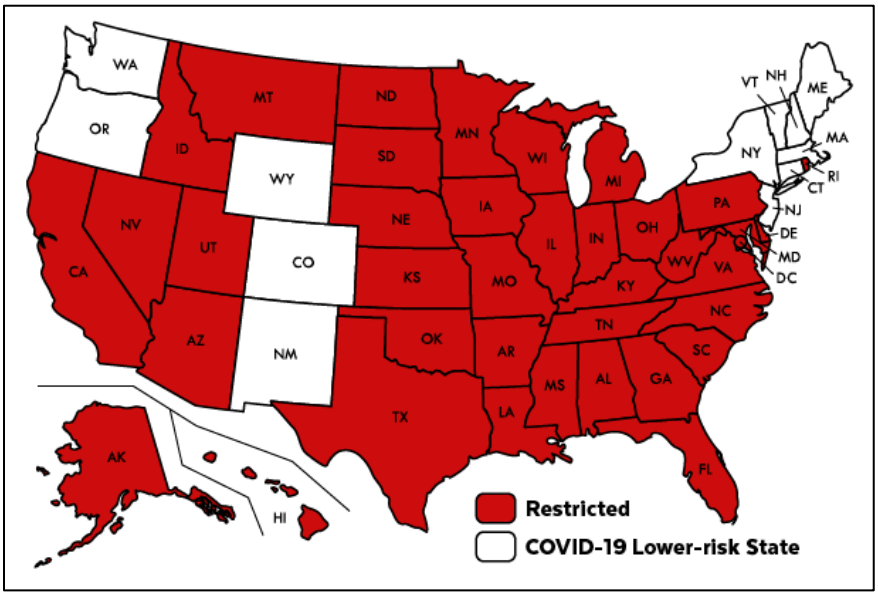
The Department of Revenue will issue emergency regulations and a Technical Information Release to implement these administrative relief measures.

Updated list of COVID-19 lower-risk states

Travelers from COVID-19 lower-risk States are not required to fill out the **Massachusetts Travel Form** and do not need to quarantine. States are included on the list based on meeting two criteria: average daily cases per 100K below 6 AND positive test rate below 5%, both measured as a 7-day rolling average. Data is from **covidexitstrategy.org** as of September 9, 2020.

The current list of COVID-19 lower-risk states include:

- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oregon
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wyoming



Additional information about the Massachusetts COVID-19 travel order, including the list of lower-risk states, exemptions, business guidance, and other details, is available here.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Important Updates

Department of Public Health Updates:

- MDPH has issued the following new/updated guidance:
  - September update to *Caring for Long-Term Care Residents during the COVID-19 Emergency* guidance memo including PPE chart revised to appropriately reflect when to change gowns between residents.
  - New Caution Signs for residents quarantined or in isolation in Long-Term Care facilities.
  - Updated guidance for *Limitations on Visitors in Long-Term Care Facilities during the COVID-19 Outbreak*.
  - Updated *Hospital Visitor Restrictions Guidance*.
- CDC released its *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdictional Operations* to provide guidance on how to plan and operationalize a vaccination response to COVID-19.
- MA211 received 3,296 calls from Tuesday 9/8 through Tuesday 9/15 for a new total of 116,629.

Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Updates:

Mass Care

- 1 state contracted quarantine/isolation hotel in the city of Everett continues to receive client placements.
  - Currently 18 residents are housed in this hotel (change of -4 since last Thursday)
  - Isolation support will continue in support of the "Stop the Spread" testing initiative.
- A total of 130,747 meals have been distributed to date through state contracted hotel sites and distributions of food boxes and meal bags.

Logistics (including Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies)

- MEMA's State Logistics Warehouse has processed 50 orders between 9/11 and 9/17.
- The warehouse is preparing to support DESE with the movement of cloth masks designated for schools in the coming weeks. To date, 775,500 of these masks have been received, with additional youth-sized cloth masks to be delivered at a future date.
- The warehouse is preparing to support COVID testing sites, through a pilot program with the Command Center, with face coverings and flyers. Approximately 2.2 million face coverings are being prepared for distribution.
- 1,500 Sanitizer Stands are being delivered to the CEIT, via the Everett Public Schools, next week. These stands will be used in their community outreach efforts.
- DPH coordinated 12 deliveries to health care entities on Tuesday 9/15 (4 PPE/9 testing supplies – 1 facility requested both), and 15 deliveries have been scheduled for Friday 9/18 (8 PPE/10 testing supplies – 3 facilities 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:

- Total FEMA RPA Applicants: 590 (+10)

- Total # Obligated Projects: 30 / +$ 7,800,980.21 (+0 / +$)
- Total # of Payments Disbursed: 13 / $ 1,093,259.82 (+0 / +$)
- Total # of Partial Payments Disbursed: 1 / $170,759.77 (+0 / +$)
- Online Applicant Technical Assistant Requests: 445 (+2)
- Continuing to provide technical assistance to project applicants.
- SBA approved 59,400 EIDL loans in Massachusetts for a total of $3,421,501,855 through August 23, 2020.
- SBA also reports that 1,339 Childcare/Early Education Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans were approved for facilities across 304 Massachusetts towns for up to $161.3 million.
- On 9/11/2020, MEMA met with the Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives to discuss funding options and ways to make the FEMA PA process more streamlined and uniform for Educational Collaboratives applying for Public Assistance funds.
- On 9/16/2020, MEMA met with DHCD to discuss reimbursement options for homeless shelter providers under FEMA PA. MEMA prepared a white paper in advance to discuss options. A management plan is currently being created by MEMA. DHCD estimates that the costs for sheltering providers will exceed $30 million.
- MEMA anticipates sending out a second survey to local governments regarding food distribution by the end of this week. This survey will aid MEMA in its request to extend the food distribution deadline to FEMA.
- The Public Assistance Grants Management System is live. Work has started on creating workflows for post-award activities.

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 9/17)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	**24,755**
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	**382**
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	**5,941**



Holyoke Soldiers' Home Weekly Update (current as of 9/15/20)

- As part of its close monitoring and early detection guidelines, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke conducts weekly surveillance testing of residents and staff, which revealed one administrative staff member who tested positive. While this staffer does not provide direct patient care, the Home immediately implemented its infection control protocols, which includes suspending visitation for two weeks. Family visitation is scheduled to resume this Saturday, September 19, provided all testing this week results in no positive cases. Testing is scheduled for September 16 and 17 this week.
    - The outdoor visitation plan remains contingent on the continued stability of infection control and public health metrics.

  - Daily symptom checking and routine staff surveillance 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.
- This week, the Soldiers' Home is hosting virtual family meetings for families to receive new information on the progress in the facility. Family meetings are conducted for both residents in the facility and those currently residing at Holyoke Medical Center.
- The Soldiers' Home is encouraging loved ones to schedule video visits with veteran residents. 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.
- 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 Home continues to adhere to infection control protocols throughout the Home and continues the cohorting of veterans with the same status.
- 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 is actively gathering 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.
  - Last week, the team launched a website for the project, www.mass.gov/HolyokeSHProject, and an online survey to gather input: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WCX32P2
- 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.
- 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 as of September 15 is as follows:**
  - The status of all residents:
    - 0 positive and not clinically recovered

        - 59 veterans are negative
        - 0 residents have a pending test
        - 79 residents have been determined clinically recovered
        - 1 resident has refused testing
    - Resident locations:
        - 114 veterans are onsite
        - 25 veterans are offsite
            - 24 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
            - 1 veteran is receiving acute care offsite
    - Since March 1, there have been 76 veteran deaths of veterans who tested positive
    - From the most recent round of surveillance testing,
        - 0 tested positive
        - All others who previously tested positive are clinically recovered

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Weekly Update (current as of 9/15/20)

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to welcome visitors for outdoor visitation 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.
    - 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.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea has started limited outdoor recreation for Long Term Care residents. Outdoor recreation is conducted while following all infection control guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).
- The Soldiers' Home has increased Domiciliary recreational outings to cities and towns deemed a safe community by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).
- The Home has eased restrictions for Dorm residents, who 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. Dorm veterans 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. 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 September 15 is as follows:**
    - Residents
        - 0 veteran residents are positive
        - 148 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

Employees:
0 employees are positive
All 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. MassSupport provides:

- Free and confidential counseling for stress and other emotional reactions to the Pandemic in multiple languages
- Referral to services
- Free mental health screenings on MassSupport website: www.MassSupport.org

MassSupport can help you:

- Take stock of needs
- Identify solutions
- Enhance or develop coping strategies
- Feel heard
- Understand and manage your reactions
- Be less stressed
- Get reliable, fact-based information

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.

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 daily 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 • 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 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 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