

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

Note: The Command Center Situation Report will be published on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday Schedule.

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Governor Baker Provides Daily Update
- Pop-up Testing Continues
- Daily Public Health Data: Dashboard Indicators
- Weekly Public Health Report: Results of 3rd Round of Nursing Home Infection Control Audits
- Salvation Army COVID-19 Response Update
- 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 6/17*

106,151 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

7,734 Deaths (See dashboard below for key daily public health indicators)

727,549 patients tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States *Last Updated 6/17*

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:

2,132,321 Total Cases

116,862 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

Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito were joined by Secretary of Public Safety and Security Thomas A. Turco and members of the Black and Latino legislative caucus to discuss legislation filed that improves police officer standards, accountability, and improved training. The Governor also provided an update on the Coronavirus response. ([See video here](#)).

Testing Update:

Yesterday (June 16th) over 6,500 new tests were reported in Massachusetts with 195 confirmed positive. Around 700,000 individuals have been tested to date. The average positive test rate declined to **2.6%** which, represents a 90% reduction in positive cases since mid-April.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

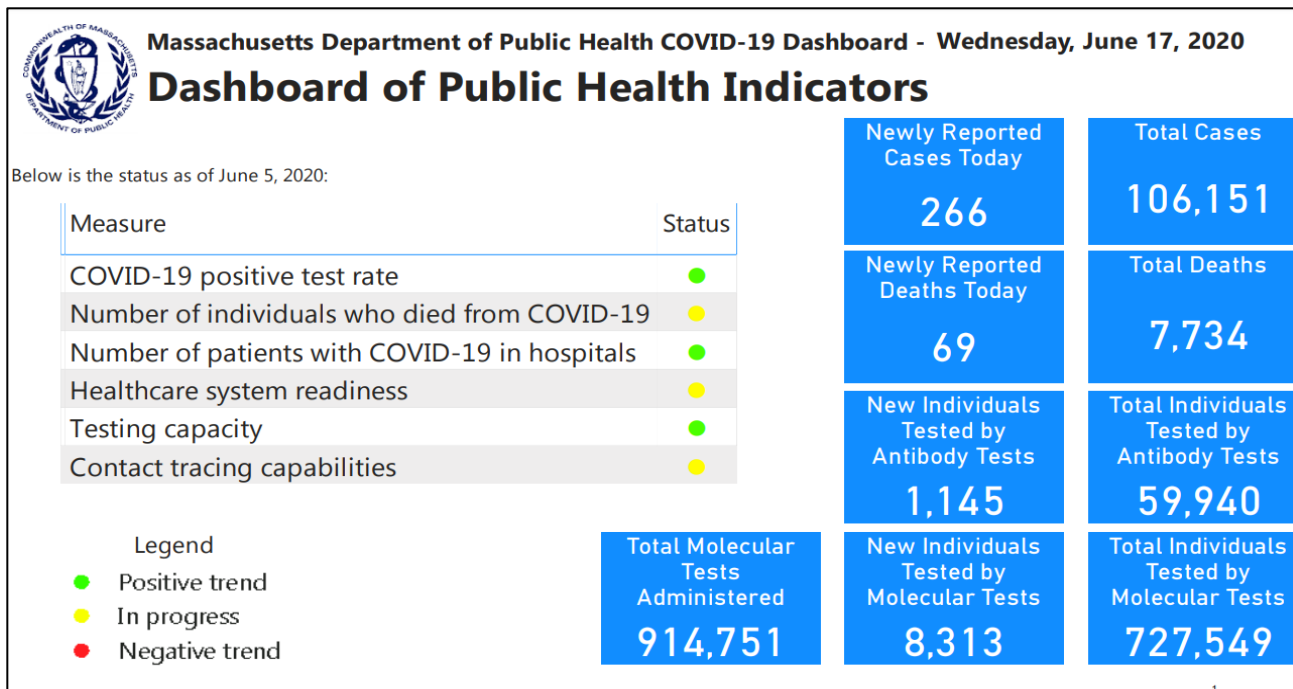
As of June 16th, around 1,000 people have been hospitalized, with 240 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decline of over 70% since mid-April.

Pop-up Testing Continues

On Monday, the Baker-Polito Administration [announced](#) that more than 50 pop-up COVID-19 testing sites across the state would provide free testing for individuals who have recently participated in large gatherings. The pop-up sites kicked-up off today **and will continue through tomorrow, Thursday, June 18**. The Administration is urging anyone who has attended a large gathering in the past two weeks to get tested for COVID-19 at one of these sites. Test results will be provided to each participant confidentially, and participants are encouraged to share these results with their doctors. A full list of all testing sites is available at www.mass.gov/gettested.

COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the June 17th Daily Dashboard is provided below:



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Confirmed and Probable Case Breakdown

Confirmed

<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Newly Reported Confirmed Cases Today</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">180</div>	<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Total Confirmed Cases</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">101,654</div>
<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Newly Reported Deaths among Confirmed Today</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">60</div>	<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Total Deaths among Confirmed Cases</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">7,568</div>

Probable

<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Newly Reported Probable Cases Today</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">86</div>	<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Total Probable Cases</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">4,497</div>
<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Newly Reported Deaths among Probable Today</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">9</div>	<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Total Deaths among Probable Cases</div> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">166</div>

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.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Percent Change Since April 15th

7 Day Weighted Average of Positive Molecular Test Rate

-92 %

3 Day Average of Number of COVID-19 Patients in Hospital*

-71 %

Number of Hospitals using Surge Capacity

-90 %

3 Day Average of COVID-19 Deaths**

-82 %

*Includes both confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19; **Includes deaths in only confirmed cases of COVID-19

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Weekly Public Health Data Report: New round of nursing home infection control audits shows improvement

The latest Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report was released today. The comprehensive report includes town-by-town case and testing information, along with detailed case and death data related to long term care facilities.

Also included in this week's report were results of the 3rd round of nursing home infection control audits required as part of the Administration's [Nursing Home Support and Accountability](#) initiative. The audits are based on a [28-point checklist](#), developed in accordance with federal and state infection control guidelines. Based on audit scores facilities are placed into one of three categories:

- Green signifying a facility is "In Adherence" and scored at least a 24 out of 28
- Yellow signifying a facility is "In Adherence but warrants reinspection" and scored at least 20 out of 28 on the checklist
- Red signifying a facility is "Not in Adherence" and scored under 20 and/or missed at least one of six core competencies that represent the most critical infection control measures facilities need to implement

The latest round of audits show that the vast majority of nursing facilities are now in adherence with the infection control checklist, and that the number of facilities in the red category (not in adherence), has improved in each round of auditing. After the first round, 37% of facilities were found to be not in adherence. That percentage improved to 14% after the second round of infection control audits, and dropped to 6% (or 21 facilities) in the 3rd round. All facilities that remain in the red or yellow categories will be audited again within the next two weeks. Facilities in the red category will see a decrease in additional funding provided under the initiative, and face additional accountability measures if improvements in their scores are not made.

You can find all the daily and weekly data reports by visiting the [COVID-19 Response Reporting page](#). ([Find the Data Files Here](#)).

Important Updates

Salvation Army COVID-19 Response Update

The Salvation Army has provided over 4 million meals, emotional and spiritual care, and other critical supplies to Massachusetts residents since March 10th:



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.**

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Onsite Testing

Date	Number of Tests Completed	Unique Facilities Visited
6/15	653	8
Total (as of 6/15)	57,058	493

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 6/17)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	22,932
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	368
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	4,875

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 6/15 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	12,460
Staff	18,209
Total Tests	30,699
Number of Locations	2,020

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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- 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. Today, the Soldiers' Home began reporting the recovery of residents, based on clinical determinations. All but 3 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined as recovered.
- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke resumed outdoor visits yesterday, and is offering 20 slots each day for veterans to visit with their loved ones. Families and loved ones are able to schedule visits with veterans in advance using the Family Line.
 - The Soldiers' Home is following [visitation guidance](#), and is 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.
- Outdoor visitation will be in addition to continued video visits 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.
- The Home continues its work to resume recreational activities for Veterans, and veterans continue to go outside today with nursing and recreation staff.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER DAILY SITUATION REPORT

- Soldiers' Home leadership is 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.
- 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.
- **Veteran residents have been retested, and the results as of June 17 are as follows:**
 - The current status of all residents:
 - 3 veterans are positive (across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center)
 - 65 veterans tested negative (meaning that they have always tested negative)
 - 81 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 1 veteran has refused testing
 - Resident locations:
 - 121 veterans are onsite
 - 29 veterans are offsite
 - 27 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 2 veterans are receiving acute care offsite
 - 96 veteran deaths (76 positive, 17 negative, 1 unknown, 2 recovered)
 - Employees at the Home have been retested. There are only 2 positives remaining

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 were largely negative. Today, the Soldiers' Home began reporting the recovery of residents, based on clinical determinations. All but 6 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined as recovered.
- On Monday, the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea resumed outdoor visitation. The Soldiers' Home is following [visitation guidance](#), and has developed outdoor visitation protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. While visitation begins today, 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 will occur 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.
- 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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER DAILY SITUATION REPORT

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- **The results of retesting as of June 17 are as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 6 veteran residents are positive
 - 178 veteran residents have tested negative, and they have always tested negative
 - 30 residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 41 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 10 tested negative)
 - Employees:
 - 36 employees tested positive

Resources

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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER DAILY SITUATION REPORT

- 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.

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](#)).

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER DAILY SITUATION REPORT

The Need for Blood Donations Continues, and Recovered Covid-19 Donors Can Help Save Lives

In coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Red Cross is seeking people who are fully recovered from the new coronavirus to sign up to donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening condition. Interested individuals can visit [RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more, and if eligible, sign up to help.

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.