

Friday, June 19, 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
- Transition to Step Two of Second Phase of Four-Phase Approach
- Get Tested MA: New Testing Website Launched
- COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group Recommendations Released
- Daily Public Health Data: Dashboard Indicators
- Red Cross Launches Virtual Family Assistance Center
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

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

Background on the Command Center

The COVID Command Center, under the leadership of Secretary Marylou Sudders and reporting to Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, is the Commonwealth's single point of strategic decision making and coordination for the Administration's comprehensive COVID-19 response.



Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts *current as of 6/19*

106,650 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

7,800 Deaths (See dashboard below for key daily public health indicators)

746,162 patients tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States *Last Updated 6/19*

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:

2,178,710 Total Cases

118,365 Deaths

55 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, and US V.I.)

Social Distancing Basics:

- ✓ Stay Home
- ✓ Call/Facetime/online chat with friends and loved ones.

If you go out for essential needs:

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

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- [Guidance for Restaurants](#)
- [Guidance for Close-Contact Personal Services](#)
- [Guidance for Other Industries](#)
- [Guidance for Sectors Not Otherwise Addressed](#)

Before these sectors can resume operations under the guidelines, businesses must meet all safety standards, create a COVID-19 control plan, and complete a self-certification.

[VIEW THE FULL REPORT](#) [VIEW GOVERNOR BAKER'S PHASE II EXECUTIVE ORDER](#)

New COVID-19 Testing Website Launched

Today, the Baker-Polito Administration launched a revamped testing website, "Get Tested MA," as a more convenient resource for the public to find information on testing in one place. The website, available at [Mass.gov/gettested](https://mass.gov/gettested), has information on who should get a test, what to do if an individual receives a positive test, and details on the different types of tests available.

It also connects with the Commonwealth's COVID-19 test site [locator](#), where individuals in need of a test can search for a test site convenient for them. The map allows for filtering among the more than 250 test sites by features including hours, testing for kids, and drive through options. Before seeking testing at a site, individuals should check the details of each site and call ahead if an appointment is necessary.



The Administration is also launching a new awareness campaign today for testing, including using electronic MassDOT and MBTA billboards throughout the state, as well as social media. The Administration continues to ramp up the Commonwealth's testing capacity and access to testing throughout the state. To date, over 926,000 molecular tests have been conducted on over 736,000 people in the Commonwealth.

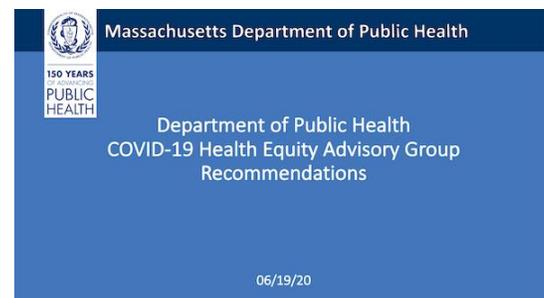
On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, the Administration stood up over 50 testing sites across the Commonwealth to provide free testing to individuals who had recently attended large gatherings.

COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group Recommendations Released ([News Release](#))

To address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and marginalized populations, the Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group today released specific recommendations to inform the state's ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response.

During her Command Center update, Secretary Sudders said that the recommendations are starting points for actionable next steps, the first of which is that the Public Health order authorizing Crisis Standards of Care is rescinded effective today.

The advisory group recommendations [were released with new data](#) from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) that highlight marked differences in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and



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deaths for different races and ethnicities. Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics have a 3x higher positive COVID-19 case rate than White non-Hispanics. Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics also have higher rates of hospitalizations. Age-adjusted mortality rates show these groups are bearing a higher burden of COVID deaths compared to the White or Asian populations. Nine of the ten cities and towns with the highest rates of COVID infection are also communities where more than half the residents identify as people of color.

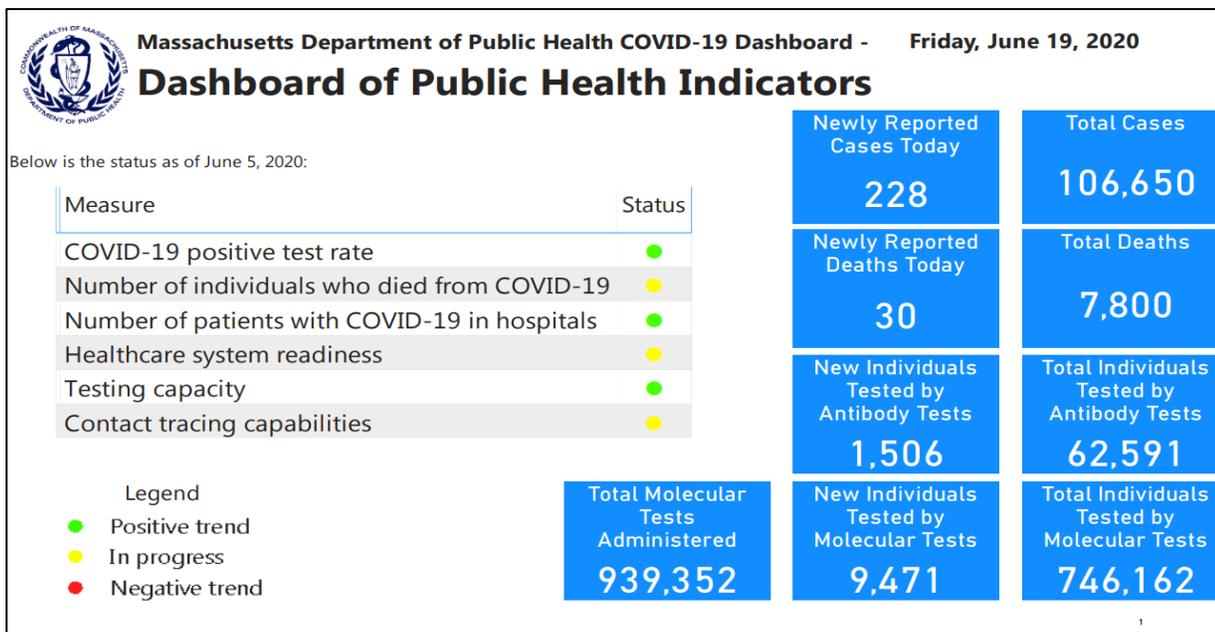
Convened by MDPH Commissioner Bharel, the COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group includes 26 community leaders, health and racial equity experts, and members of communities and populations disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The advisory group’s mission was to inform the state’s COVID response by recommending actions aimed at equitable access to health care resources and services, and prevention of inequities and disproportionate negative outcomes. The group, which met throughout the month of May, selected four critical areas that needed to be addressed: Data and Metrics, COVID-19 Mitigation, Community Engagement, and the Social Determinants of Health. **Key recommendations include:**

- Continuing to disaggregate COVID data across populations and sectors, such as transit usage.
- Increasing equitable distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) for essential workers and Commonwealth residents in professions most at risk.
- Implement policies that increase housing stability for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- Prioritizing investment in multilingual outreach to communities to increase access to testing, home and workplace protections, and access to state assistance programs.
- Planning and implementing a strategy for the active engagement and representation of existing community based organizations in the most-impacted communities as part of decision-making processes related to COVID-19 response and recovery.

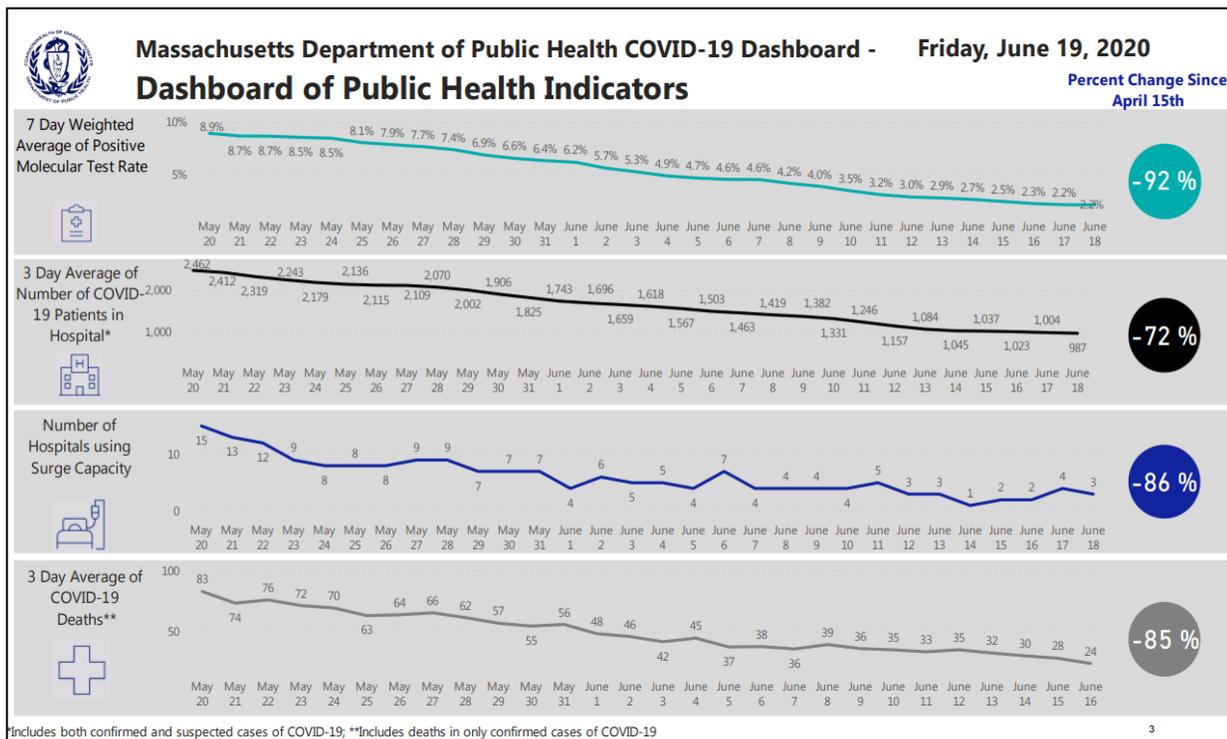
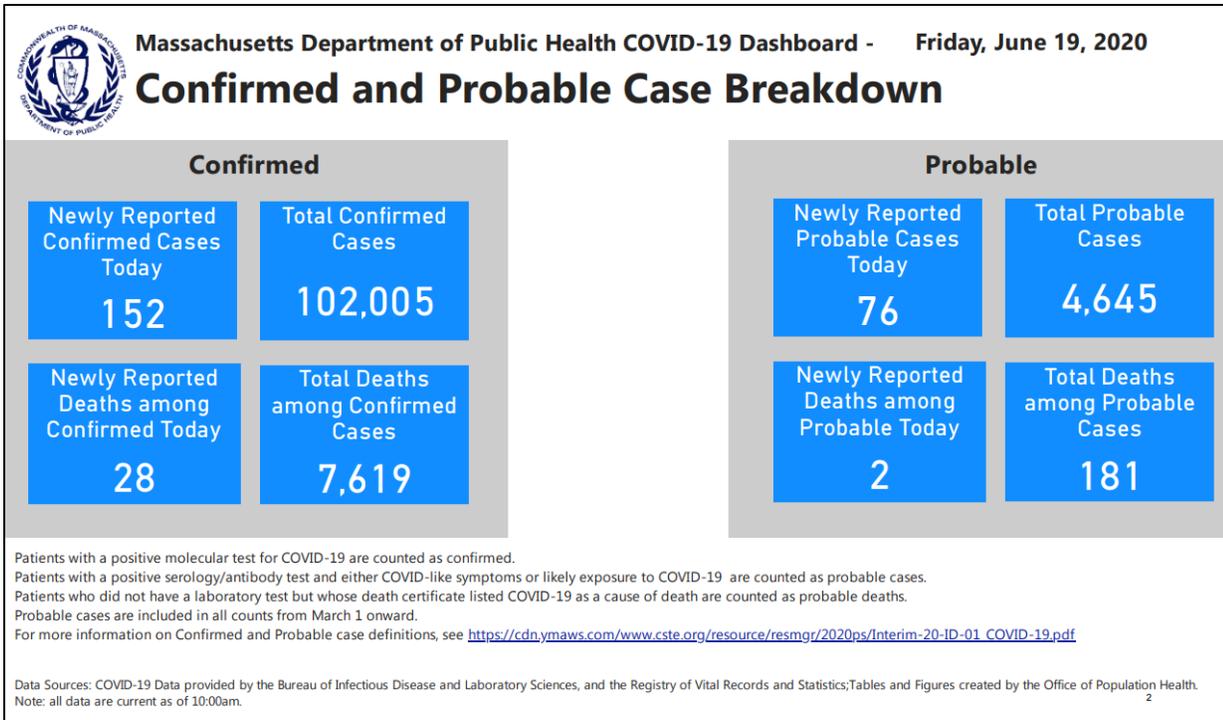
[See the full list of recommendations of the Health Equity Advisory Group and list of members.](#)

COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the June 19th Daily Dashboard is provided below:



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Important Updates

Red Cross Offers Virtual Family Assistance Center For Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones to COVID-19

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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.

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
6/15	653	8
Total (as of 6/15)	57,058	493

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 6/19)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	23,052
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	369
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	4,920

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 6/19 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,169
Staff	17,403
Total Tests	28,572
Number of Locations	1,931



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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



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Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- This week, all veteran residents of the Soldiers Home in Holyoke have been determined clinically recovered, following a full-house retesting.
- On Sunday, the Soldiers' Home will offer families a special Father's Day visitation with 27 families. The Home resumed outdoor visitation this week and is generally offering visits Tuesday through Saturday with 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 using outdoor visitation protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. This plan will be contingent on the continued stability of infection controls and public health metrics, which we continue to monitor daily and coordinate with state and local health officials.
- The Home continues its work to resume recreational activities for Veterans, and veterans continue to go outside today with nursing and recreation staff.
- Soldiers' Home leadership is moving into the Transition & Rebuilding Phase that is focused on rebuilding the staff leadership and team and positioning the facility to move forward safely. An interim Chief Operating Officer and Interim Director of Facilities have been identified to support operations during this time and will be starting soon.
- 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.
- Outdoor visitation is 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.
- 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 current status as of June 19 is as follows:**
 - The current status of all residents:
 - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 65 veterans tested negative (meaning that they have always tested negative)
 - 84 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 1 veteran has refused testing
 - Resident locations:
 - 120 veterans are onsite
 - 30 veterans are offsite

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- 27 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
- 3 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

- On Sunday, the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea's social work team will be assisting veterans with virtual visits for Father's Day, and coffee and donuts are being provided to domiciliary residents.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea began reporting the recovery of residents based on clinical determinations following the retesting of all veterans, and 30 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered.
- The Soldiers' Home has averaged 7 outdoors visits each day, with a total of 35 veterans receiving outdoor visits from families and loved ones as the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea resumed outdoor visitation this week. Following [visitation guidance](#), the Home has developed outdoor visitation protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. Ongoing plans are contingent on the continued stability of infection controls and public health metrics, which we continue to monitor daily and coordinate with state and local health officials.
 - Outdoor visitation 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.
- 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 results of retesting as of June 19 are as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 7 veteran residents are positive
 - Today's update includes one additional COVID-positive resident who tested positive at an acute care facility offsite
 - 178 veteran residents have tested negative, and they have always tested negative
 - 29 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

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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.

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](#)

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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](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