

Friday, June 26, 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:

- Economic Relief Package to Promote Equity and Economic Growth
- Public Health Data: Dashboard Indicators & Weekly Report
- MDPH Order Regarding Non-Essential Elective Procedures
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Situation 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 6/26*

108,070 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

8,013 Deaths (See dashboard below for key daily public health indicators)

809,086 patients tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States *Last Updated 6/26*

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:

2,414,870 Total Cases

124,325 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.

State Actions

Today, the Baker-Polito Administration unveiled a COVID-19 economic recovery package to generate economic growth amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$275 million package, designed to promote equity across the Commonwealth, is an update to the Administration's Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth, the economic development legislation originally filed on March 4, 2020. ([See video here](#)).

\$275M COVID-19 Economic Relief Package to Promote Equity and Economic Growth ([News Release](#))

The original legislation was the product of a nearly year-long economic development planning process last year, and the now \$275 million proposal represents a targeted package of investments across three core areas:

housing, community development, and business competitiveness. In response to the dramatically different economic landscape due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Administration will ask the Legislature to consider an amended scope for several of the proposed programs, reallocate funding among proposed authorizations, and establish new tools to promote equity and drive economic growth.



This afternoon, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy testified during a virtual hearing before the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technology, highlighting the need for the legislation, and explaining the Administration's proposed changes.

To address the new realities brought on by COVID-19, while continuing to address the opportunities and challenges already identified in the *Partnerships for Growth* economic development plan, this package proposes to:

- **Amend the scope of several proposed programs**, to target funding towards specific communities including those hardest hit by COVID-19
- **Reallocate funding among proposed authorizations**, to better address the significant economic impacts of COVID-19 and to help provide a path for recovery, particularly for those most devastated by the pandemic
- **Establish new tools to promote equity and drive economic growth** in communities and among businesses facing barriers to entry in areas like state contracting

To do so, the Administration is proposing **allocating an additional \$15 million for neighborhood stabilization** (for a total of \$40 million) to invest in blighted and distressed homes. This funding, paired with collaboration and engagement with community organizations and municipalities, will bring safe, affordable housing units back on the market.

Women, minority, veteran, and immigrant small business owners face disproportionate challenges to accessing capital to grow their enterprises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, gaps worsened for businesses that have not been able to take advantage of federal programs. To allow the state to invest in more small businesses overall, especially those owned by underrepresented populations, and to leverage greater federal and private investment dollars, the Administration is **recommending increasing funding for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) by \$25 million (for a total of \$35 million)**, a record increase in this program. These grants to small business lenders allow CDFIs to serve entrepreneurs in underserved populations with financial services, technical assistance, and credit building opportunities.

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To help address the disproportionate challenges to accessing early stage business financing, the Administration is asking the Legislature to **triple funding for grants to support micro businesses from a total of \$5 million to \$15 million**. Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) recently launched a pilot program called Biz-M-Power, which offers 1:1 matching grants and technical assistance to microbusinesses (fewer than 20 employees) who have successfully crowdsourced up to \$10,000 in seed capital.

The legislation also includes the language of *An Act to Promote Housing Choices*, the Administration’s bill to advance new housing production in Massachusetts, to promote equitable access to opportunity, and to support the administration’s goal to produce 135,000 new housing units by 2025. *An Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth* includes these Housing Choice provisions to enable cities and towns to adopt certain zoning best practices through a simple majority vote rather than the current two-thirds supermajority.

An Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth was originally filed in March of 2020. For more details, [click here](#).

Testing Update:

Yesterday (June 25th) around 10,000 new tests were reported in Massachusetts with 226 confirmed positive. Over 1,000,000 individuals have been tested to date. The 7-day weighted average positive viral test rate has dropped to **1.8%**.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

As of June 25th, 905 people have been hospitalized, with 174 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the June 26th Daily Dashboard is provided below:



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Friday, June 26, 2020

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Below is the status as of June 5, 2020:

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

Legend

- Positive trend
- In progress
- Negative trend

Total Molecular Tests Administered

1,020,867

Newly Reported Cases Today

233

Total Cases

108,070

Newly Reported Deaths Today

50

Total Deaths

8,013

New Individuals Tested by Antibody Tests

1,506

Total Individuals Tested by Antibody Tests

68,259

New Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests

8,545

Total Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests

809,086

1

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Friday, June 26, 2020

Confirmed and Probable Case Breakdown

Confirmed

Newly Reported
Confirmed Cases
Today

149

Total Confirmed
Cases

103,071

Newly Reported
Deaths among
Confirmed Today

39

Total Deaths
among Confirmed
Cases

7,815

Probable

Newly Reported
Probable Cases
Today

84

Total Probable
Cases

4,999

Newly Reported
Deaths among
Probable Today

11

Total Deaths
among Probable
Cases

198

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.maws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2020ps/Interim-20-ID-01_COVID-19.pdf

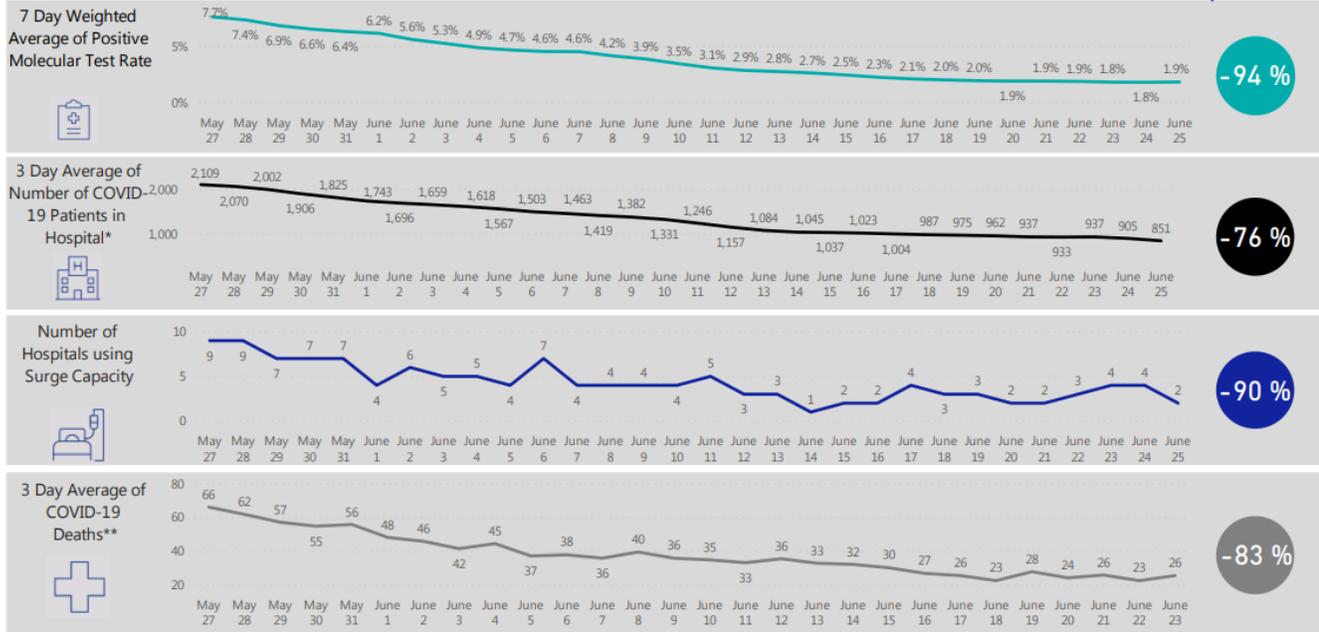
Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, and the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics; Tables and Figures created by the Office of Population Health.
Note: all data are current as of 10:00am.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Friday, June 26, 2020

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Percent Change Since
April 15th



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

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New Weekly Public Health Data Posted

The Command Center released the comprehensive Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report on Wednesday. The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report includes town-by-town case and testing information, data on recoveries, along with detailed case and death data related to long term care facilities. The report also includes information on nursing facility audits and more. You can find all the data reports, and raw data files, by visiting the [COVID-19 Response Reporting page](#).

Important Updates

MDPH Order Regarding Non-Essential Elective Procedures

MDPH Commissioner Bharel has issued an Order permitting acute care hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and independent practices that attest to meeting specific criteria and public health and safety standards to resume non-essential elective invasive procedures, including cosmetic procedures. The Order and associated guidance can be found [here](#).

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

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 6/26)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	23,362
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	369
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	5,051

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 6/26 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,383
Staff	17,578
Total Tests	28,961
Number of Locations	1,987



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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM 

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- Yesterday, the Baker-Polito Administration 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.
- On Wednesday, the Baker-Polito Administration released the independent report ordered by Governor Baker to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

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- 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.
- All veteran residents of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered, following full-house retesting. Residents are actively continuing their recovery, and the health status of veterans has seen marked improvement.
- The Home is continuing recreational activities for Veterans, respecting social distancing, and veterans continue to go outside with nursing and recreation staff.
- Outdoor visitation with veterans' families and loved ones is being offered, with 20 slots available each day, Tuesday through Saturday. 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.
 - Outdoor visitation is occurring alongside continued video visits, 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.
- 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.
- **The current status as of June 26 is as follows:**
 - The current status of all residents:
 - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 64 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:
 - 122 veterans are onsite
 - 27 veterans are offsite

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- 26 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 97 veteran deaths (76 deaths of veterans who tested positive, 18 veterans who tested negative, 1 veteran whose status was unknown, 2 veterans were clinically recovered)
- Employees at the Home have been retested and all are clinically recovered.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- This week, 26 visits occurred between veterans and loved ones, 9 are planned for this weekend, and 35 occurred last week. Following [visitation guidance](#), the Home has 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 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 29 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered.
- The Incident Command team at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to monitor and 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 current status as of June 26 is as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 7 veteran residents are positive
 - 177 veteran residents have tested negative
 - 29 residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 42 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 11 tested negative)
 - Employees:
 - Employees have been retested, 4 are remaining positive
 - 56 employees have been determined clinically recovered

Resources

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:

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- 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.

Disaster Recovery Information

On March 27, the President [declared](#) a Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through this declaration, federal aid will be made available to cities and towns, state agencies, and certain non-profits in all Massachusetts counties to help pay for emergency protective measures (response costs) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. MEMA's Recovery Unit has developed a [webpage](#) with information and guidance on, but not limited to, disaster declaration, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

COVID-19 Public Resources Map

MEMA, together with MA VOAD and other partners, has developed a [COVID-19 Public Resources Map](#) showing the location of resources available to the public, such as food banks, houses of worship, and Project Bread site locations. Please note that this map is not inclusive of all resources and is only as accurate as the information that has been provided to MEMA.

Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Dashboard

MEMA has developed and maintains a public-facing COVID-19 ArcGIS Online dashboard, available [here](#). This dashboard is continuously updated and captures information about current COVID 19 case counts, cases by age, cases by county, hospital status, hospital bed status, death tolls, and deaths by age. Users should refresh the dashboard on a daily basis as enhancements are continuously being added.

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results. Call 2-1-1 with questions. Text the keyword **COVIDMA to 888-777** to receive notifications to your phone. To receive these notifications in Spanish, text **COVIDMAESP to 888-777**
- Take care of your emotional health:
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the "CALL2TALK" option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.

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- 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:

[Overview of COVID-19 Testing](#)

- [Spanish](#)
- [Portuguese](#)

[Importance of COVID-19 Testing](#)

- [Spanish](#)
- [Portuguese](#)

[How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home](#)

- [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
- Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.

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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. 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