

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (link in sidebar)
- Governor Baker Visits PPE Manufacturer in Fall River
- Mask/Face Covering Order Takes Effect Wednesday 5/6
- Infographic: Salvation Army's COVID-19 Response
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Governor Baker examines some of the personal protective equipment made by Merrow Manufacturing of Fall River during his visit to the facility.

Helpful Links:

- [Get Involved: Community Contact Tracing Collaborative](#)
- [Jobs Available to Assist Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- [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 5/05**

70,271 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

4,212 Deaths

333,349 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **current as of 5/05**

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:

1,171,510 Total Cases

68,279 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

Governor Baker Visits Merrow Manufacturing in Fall River (News Release)

Today, Governor Charlie Baker, joined by Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Director Carolyn Kirk, visited Merrow Manufacturing in Fall River, which has converted its facility to produce personal protective equipment. A stream of today's visit is available [here](#).

During his visit, the Governor provided his daily update on testing, hospitalizations, and PPE distribution, gave an update on the work of the Manufacturing Emergency Response Team, and Merrow Manufacturing CEO Charlie Merrow shared how Merrow Manufacturing was able to pivot its operations to begin manufacturing PPE.

Testing:

- Yesterday (May 4) almost 10,000 tests were reported in Massachusetts.
- The number of new, confirmed COVID-19 cases yesterday came in at 1,000.
 - 10% of those tests were positive.
- Positive test rates have been under 20% for the past several days.

Hospitalizations & Capacity:

- As of May 4th, there were 3,539 patients hospitalized statewide for COVID-19, 908 of which are being treated in ICUs. The number of hospitalizations has been trending downward for the past week.
- For people who test positive for COVID-19, about 5% become ill enough to be hospitalized.
- Massachusetts hospitals have significantly increased their bed capacity and now have about 18,200 beds available across the state—including the temporary field hospitals.
 - 53% of those beds remain available for patients.

Personal Protective Equipment:

- As of yesterday, the Commonwealth has delivered almost 8.5 million pieces of PPE; this includes masks, gloves, gowns, and ventilators distributed to health care workers, first responders and others.
- The Command Center continues to aggressively pursue all supply chain avenues.

About Merrow Manufacturing:

Merrow Manufacturing in Fall River, is an 8th generation family-owned and -operated company participating in the Administration's Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (M-ERT). This initiative assists local manufacturers in transitioning operations to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical items needed to support the Commonwealth's ongoing response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

According to Merrow, the partnership with the M-ERT has allowed the company to scale its diverse manufacturing operations to become the largest manufacturer of USA-sourced PPE reusable and disposable medical isolation gowns in the country. This collaboration is projected to produce 650,000 gowns per week by July 2020, establishing a new, substantial, and secure supply chain for essential medical products nationwide. Their operations have also pivoted to produce surgical caps, gaiters and pillow cases.

In addition to providing essential PPE for frontline medical workers battling COVID-19, Merrow Manufacturing's M-ERT efforts has so far created 41 new manufacturing jobs for local workers, employing 1,200 total to build

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Merrow PPE products across all of their factories, and estimate the company will invest approximately \$5 million into the City of Fall River this year.

About the Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (M-ERT):

The M-ERT is a coordinated response by the Baker-Polito Administration and leading academic and industry stakeholders to support the Commonwealth's manufacturers in their efforts to produce much-needed supplies for front-line workers and the health care system. Members of the M-ERT include representatives from: Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA), MIT, MIT Lincoln Labs, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP), Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), and other industry partners.

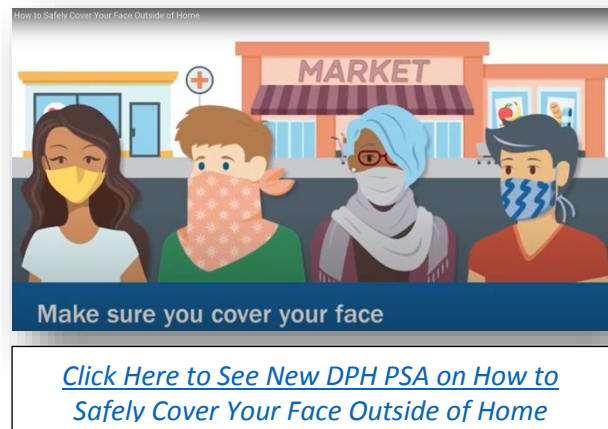
The M-ERT also [launched](#) \$10.6 million in new funding to help manufacturers scale their operations to produce PPE and other critical items. Companies can apply for grants [through an online form](#) for equipment, materials, supplies, workforce training and other needs. A Review Committee will process applications based on criteria including production timeline and recommend grant awards.

To date, 667 companies in total have reached out to participate in the M-ERT initiative, including 424 from Massachusetts.

Mask and Face Covering Order Takes Effect Wednesday, 5/6

The Baker-Polito Administration has ordered all residents over the age of two to use a face covering or mask in public places where maintaining proper social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are not possible. This statewide order goes into effect on **May 6th** and supersedes [previously issued guidance](#) relative to mask use.

This order applies to all workers and customers of businesses and other organizations that are currently open to the public and permitted to operate as [COVID-19 Essential Businesses](#), such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores. Residents are also required to wear a mask or face covering at all times when using any means of transportation service or public mass transit.



Update on Mobile Testing Numbers for Long Term Care, Assisted Living Residences and EOHHS Sites

The Mobile Testing Program can test both symptomatic and asymptomatic residents and staff at nursing homes, rest homes, Assisted Living Residences, and EOHHS group homes and care sites. The program was launched by the Command Center on 3/31 and operates under the auspices of the Massachusetts National Guard, in partnership with the Department of Public Health, Fallon Ambulance, and Broad Institute of Cambridge. See a summary below of testing activity.

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Onsite Testing

Date	Number of Tests Completed	Facilities Visited
5/5	854	12
Total (as of 5/5)	31,748	566

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 5/5)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	14,383
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	330
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	2,520

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 5/4 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	7295
Staff	10187
Total Tests	17,482
Number of Locations	1187



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

CALL ANY TIME 9AM-5PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK



Other Important Updates

Infographic: Salvation Army of Massachusetts

The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division has been a key community response partner throughout the Commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below is an infographic from the Salvation Army summarizing the organization's efforts thus far.

The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division COVID-19 Response
March 10 – April 30, 2020

57,046 EMERGENCY FOOD BOXES AND PANTRY BAGS
The Salvation Army continues to operate 31 Corps operational food pantries across Massachusetts and is working with other partner organizations to provide essentials and emergency supplies to our neighbors. We have seen an increase in need and have removed the limitations on the number of times individuals and families can receive assistance each week. Every emergency food box includes 35 meals.

1,536,874 MEALS
provided statewide. The Salvation Army is providing bagged lunches, hot meals, and groceries to our most vulnerable clients, including the homeless and seniors, as their access to resources has diminished due to COVID-19.

45,974 Individual meals served
19,475 Hygiene kits distributed

2,666 EMOTIONAL & SPIRITUAL CARE CONTACTS
Locally and nationally, The Salvation Army has a prayer army that helps us uplift all through direct contact and a toll-free national hotline.

6 DISASTER FOOD BOX HUBS
The Salvation Army is working collaboratively with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and other partner agencies to provide much-needed resources to the communities we serve. The Salvation Army is the current Feeding Task Force lead.

www.salvationarmy.ma.org/covid19

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Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- This week, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home is reintroducing rehabilitation services and additional recreation activities. The rehabilitation vendor is restarting its onsite services to support the physical rehabilitation and ambulation of veterans, add more recreation activities with music, trivia, doorway bingo, and yoga; Recreation staff will go unit by unit, veterans will social distance by staying in their doorways.
- Several new staff are starting this week, two nursing staff and one dietary staff, and they are undergoing orientation this week and will integrate into the staff soon. This is in addition to several new nursing staff that were onboarded last week to support veteran care.
- To protect the health and safety of veteran residents and staff, PPE coaches are on the units at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home to provide additional friendly correction and coaching to ensure staff are compliant with proper use across all shifts, a function in addition to the training staff have already received.
- As veteran residents are being cared for, their status and symptoms are being closely monitored and they are being retested as appropriate. As results are returned, residents are being cohorted appropriately.
- 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.
- Regular family communication continues from Holyoke Soldiers' Home staff 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 total numbers at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home as of Tuesday May 5:**
 - 84 veteran resident deaths (71 positive, 12 negatives, 1 unknown)
 - Testing results of all residents
 - 80 veteran residents have tested positive
 - 61 veteran residents have tested negative
 - Resident locations:
 - 104 residents are onsite
 - 37 residents are offsite
 - 32 residents are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 5 residents are receiving acute care offsite
 - 81 employees have tested positive

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- This week, the Chelsea Soldiers' Home is reintroducing recreation activities that respect social distancing and support residents' mental and emotional health during this challenging time. This will include socially distanced group activities to cope with the impact of the virus, as well as mindfulness, living well, and coping with other concerns.

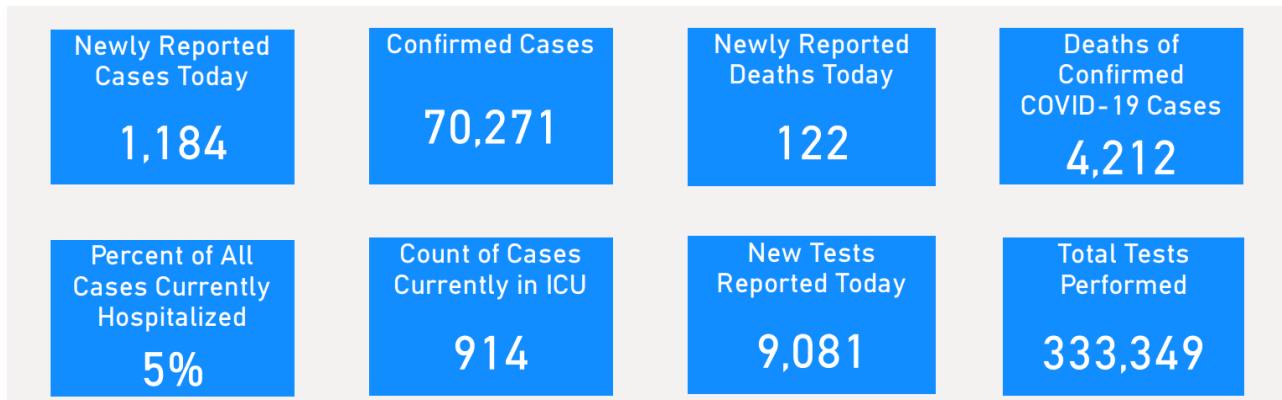
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- Veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is being conducted for veterans on- and off-site as appropriate. As results are received, veteran residents are being cohorted and further monitored. Additional isolation space has been identified and is being readied if needed.
- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has reviewed its infection control and clinical operations with additional experts. Staff have been provided PPE core competency training, the entire facility is rounded on daily for infection control quality assurance checks, all units have been provided with educational materials, and there are daily cleanings throughout the facility in addition to frequent terminal cleaning.
- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home clinical command continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including regular coordinating calls with the VA Health Care System, monitoring and enforcing staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and closely monitoring staff levels, supplementing as necessary with support from contracted staff.
- 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.
- Veteran residents are communicating with their families and loved ones via video with support from the Chelsea Soldiers' Home Social Work team. Families can request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at CSH@mass.gov and through phone and video conversations. Please note the Soldiers' Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file.
- **The total numbers at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home as of Tuesday May 5:**
 - 35 veteran resident deaths (28 tested positive, 7 tested negative)
 - Today's update includes the death of one veteran resident who had tested positive and was receiving comfort measures only at the hospital
 - 29 veteran residents who have tested positive
 - 188 veteran residents who have tested negative
 - 54 staff tested positive

COVID-19 Public Health Data

The Department of Public Health has made available the underlying data files the Department uses each day to produce the COVID-19 Dashboard, as part of a continued effort to expand the amount and type of data released to the public. The data files are updated and posted daily (**by 4pm**) with the dashboard report for the public, researchers, and media to download. **City and town case data are published weekly each Wednesday.** ([Find the Data Files Here](#)). Key data reflected in today's report is provided below:

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Resources

COVID-19 Testing

Looking for a COVID-19 test site? The Department of Public Health (DPH) has posted to their COVID-19 website information on testing and mobile testing site locations ([available here](#)). This information is updated twice weekly.

Homeless COVID-19 Isolation Sites

The Commonwealth's COVID-19 Command Center and MEMA have stood up regional isolation and recovery sites located in hotels across the state ([click here for more information](#)). Currently there are sites in Lexington, Pittsfield, Taunton, Northampton, and Everett. These locations are for individuals who:

- Are homeless (people who normally sleep at a shelter, on the street, for whom home is unsafe due to violence, or who do not have a permanent address) AND
- Who are COVID-19 positive OR have a medical provider's note recommending isolation and can safely isolate without medical supervision.

These sites are for individuals who have mild or moderate symptoms and do not need hospital level of care or nursing facility level of care. Medical treatment is not provided on site. As noted above, individuals must have a positive COVID-19 test or must have been seen by a medical provider and directed to isolate for them to be accepted. These locations cannot support individuals who need assistance with Activities of Daily Living or who need the level of care provided at a Skilled Nursing Facility.

For shelter providers located outside Boston, please call 617-367-5150 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The intake coordinator will determine eligibility, register an individual for the program, and have the guest placed and transported to the nearest Isolation and Recovery location that has availability.

For shelter providers located in Boston please call 617-534-5050 to access sites in Boston.

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

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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

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 \(:30\)](#)

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- [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](#)).

Give Blood:

The COVID-19 virus has caused the cancellation of blood drives across the Commonwealth. There is an urgent need **now**. The Governor has deemed “Blood and plasma donors and the employees of the organizations that operate and manage related activities” as an essential service. Your support is needed to communicate to your residents that the need is urgent, and donating is a necessity to supply the hospitals with the blood our neighbors require. Donating blood is safe and people should not hesitate to give. In addition, there is a need for community blood drive sites in the eastern part of the state. Identifying donation sites is vital to meet the demand as we go forward. Your local knowledge, suggestions of sites, and potential partners are crucial to meeting the needs of our neighbors who need blood and blood products. To schedule a new blood drive contact Bill Forsyth at (617) 699-3808 or at email William.Forsyth@redcross.org.

Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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:

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- 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.