

# Friday, June 12, 2020

## COVID-19 Command Center

### Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

## Situation Update

*Note: Beginning Monday, June 15, the Command Center Situation Report will be published on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday Schedule.*

### State Actions in Today's Report:

- Governor Baker Visits BI Deaconess Medical Center with HHS Sec. Azar
- Public Health Data: Dashboard Indicators & Weekly Public Health Report
- DPH Offers Summertime COVID-19 Safety Guidance
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- 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 6/12*

105,059 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

7,538 Deaths (See dashboard below for key daily public health indicators)

689,111 patients tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

**United States** *Last Updated 6/12*

*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:

2,016,027 Total Cases

113,914 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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## State Actions

Today, Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Health and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, joined U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) to participate in a roundtable discussion on BIDMC’s COVID-19 response efforts and encouraging individuals to return to hospitals and primary care practices for non-COVID care. During Secretary Azar’s visit he also toured BIDMC’s COVID-19 test kit assembly areas and preparations in the hospital’s primary care practice area. ([See video here](#))

At a media availability afterwards, the Governor expressed gratitude for the work of all hospitals across the state for the spirit of collaboration that has characterized surge capacity planning and response activities during the pandemic. Because of that work, the health care system has met the emergency needs of both COVID and non-COVID patients, and is now able to safely deliver critically important preventive and diagnostic services that have been postponed during the State of Emergency. Governor Baker also highlighted the groundbreaking work being done by a number of companies in the Commonwealth to develop vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, including work spearheaded by [Beth Israel and Johnson & Johnson](#).

### Testing:

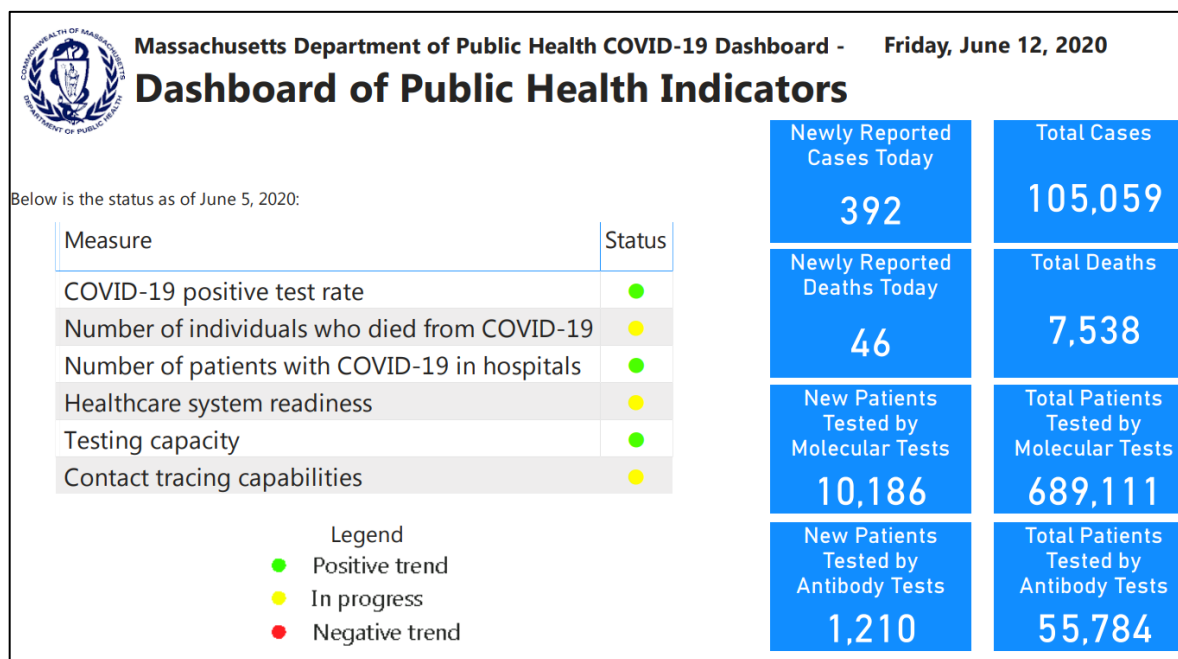
- Yesterday (June 11<sup>th</sup>) over 10,000 new tests were reported in Massachusetts with only 519 confirmed positive. Approximately 675,000 individuals have been tested to date.
  - The weekly average positive test rate declined to 3.8% which, represents an 87% reduction in positive cases since 4/15.

### Hospitalizations & Capacity:

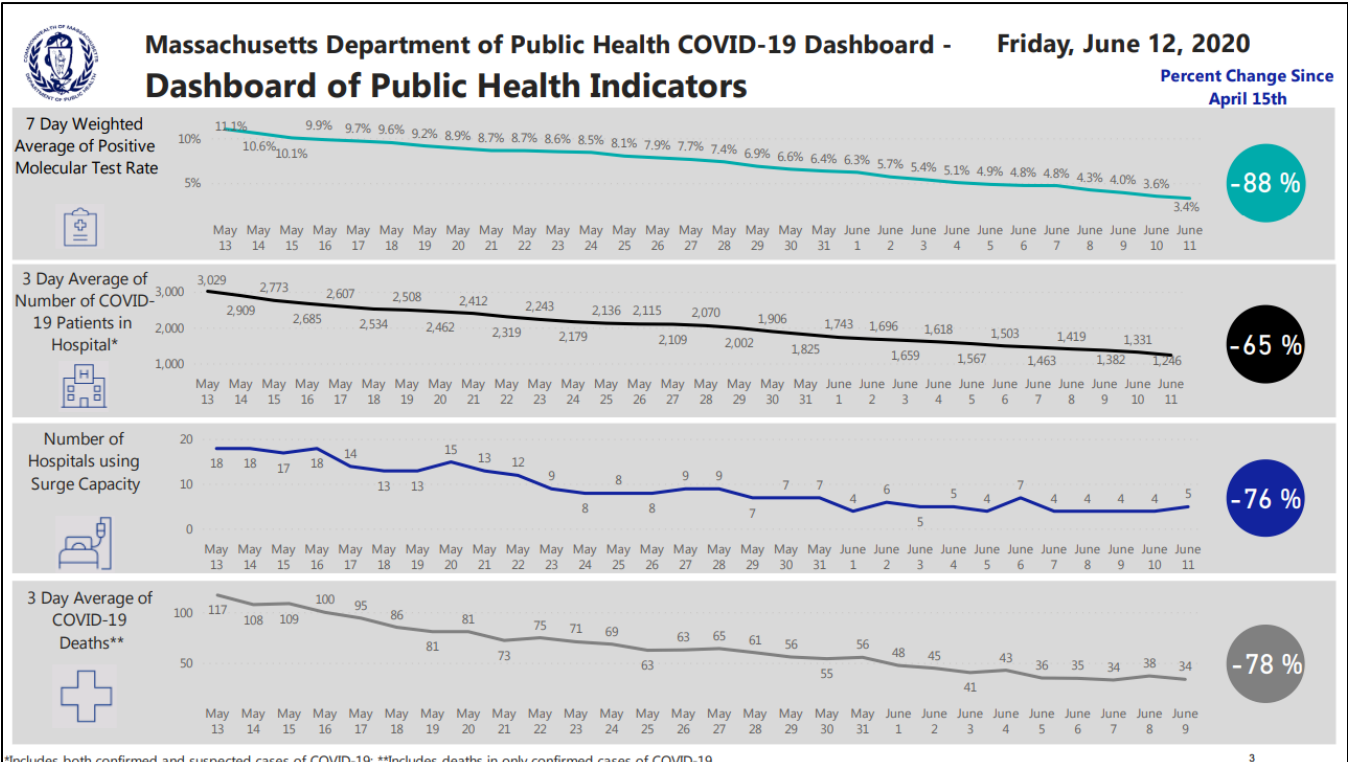
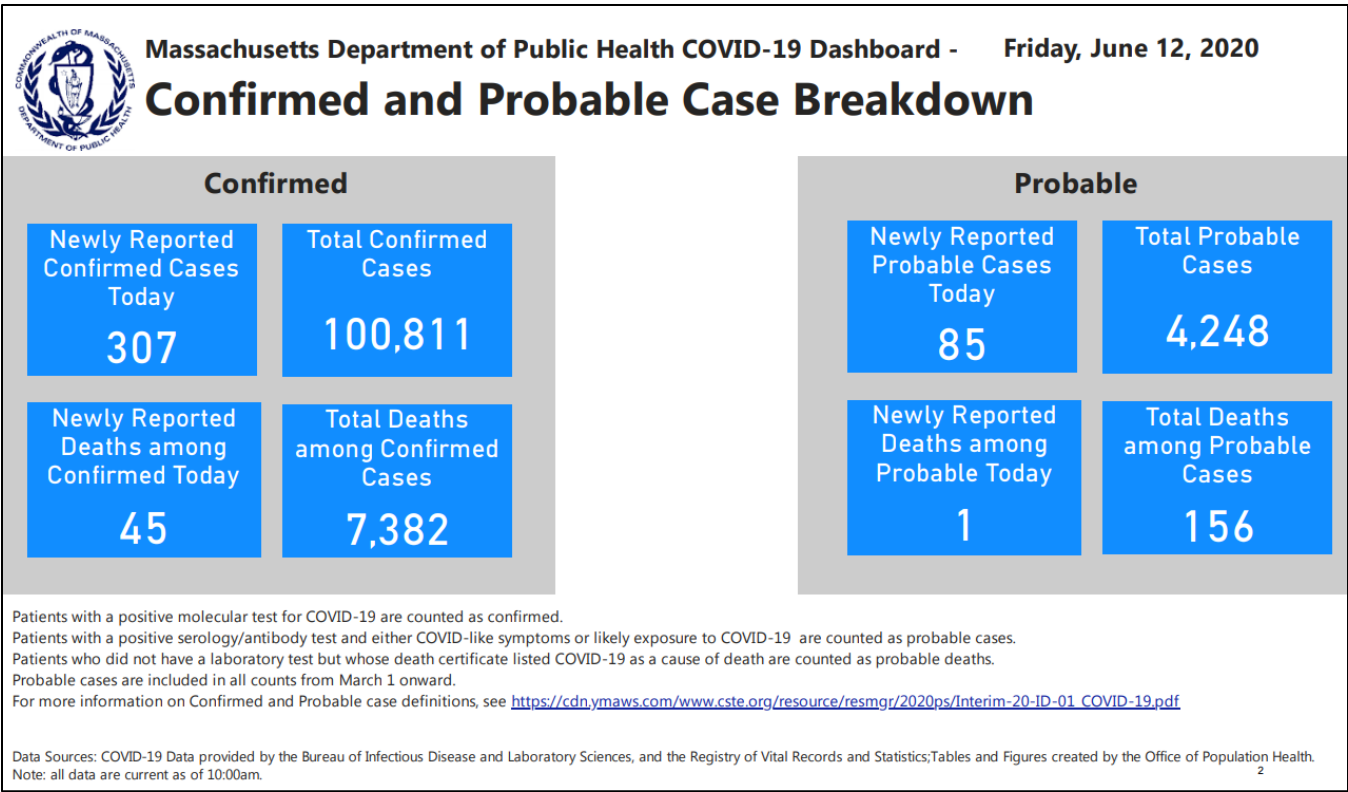
- As of June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1,334 people have been hospitalized, a decline of 63% since mid-April.

## COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in today’s Daily Dashboard is provided below:



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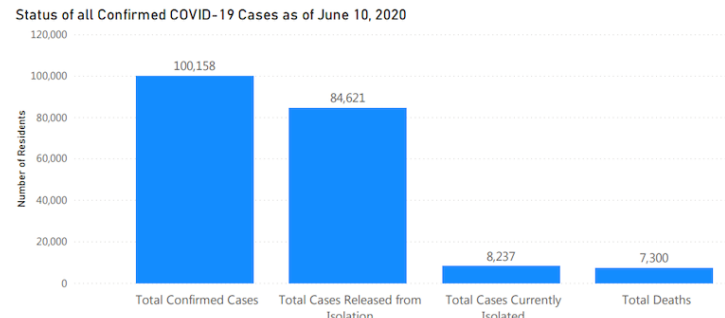
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## **Weekly Public Health Data Report**

The Command Center released the comprehensive Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report earlier this week. The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report, which is released on Wednesdays, includes town-by-town case and testing information, 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 by visiting the [COVID-19 Response Reporting page](#). ([Find the Data Files Here](#)).

## **Data on Recoveries**

Also, in the Weekly Report are data on the number of number of individuals deemed to have recovered from COVID-19. Residents who had a confirmed case of COVID-19, and are no longer in isolation, are considered for purposes of this report to be recovered. As part of this definition, DPH is counting people as released from isolation after 21 days of illness or 21 days past the date of their test in all settings including nursing homes and state facilities. You can find data on those who have recovered from COVID-19 on [page 22 of the report](#).



## ***Important Updates***

### **Massachusetts Department of Public Health Summertime COVID-19 Safety Guidance** ([News Release](#))

With the arrival of summer weather, and as COVID-19 related restrictions on daily activities begin to lift, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents of the recommended precautions to keep families, including young children, safe this summer.

### **Prevent Tick Bites**

Ticks can make you sick when they bite you. They are most commonly found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. They only attach when you come into direct contact with them — they cannot jump or fly. Follow these steps if you live, work, or spend time in areas where ticks are present:

- Check yourself for ticks once a day — it's the single most important thing you can do.
- Use repellents that contain DEET on your exposed skin and those that contain permethrin on your clothes.
- When walking or hiking, stick to main pathways and the center of trails if you can. Brushing against tall grass and bushes will increase your exposure to ticks.
- Weather permitting, wear long-sleeved, light-colored shirts and long pants tucked into socks. This will help keep ticks away from your skin and make it easier to spot ticks on your clothing.

Because dogs and horses are particularly susceptible, talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to protect your animals from tick-borne disease.

### **Prevent Mosquito Bites**

The 2019 mosquito season was an active season for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Massachusetts. This mosquito-borne illness appears generally in 2-3 year cycles, traditionally peaking during August.

While the risk for human infection of EEE or West Nile Virus won't happen until later this summer, people have an important role to play in protecting themselves from these illnesses which can be very serious. To prepare for mosquito season:



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- Drain standing water in and around your house or yard to prevent mosquito breeding.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Use a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient according to the directions on the label.
- Wear clothing to reduce exposed skin when weather permits.

To learn more, watch this [3-minute video](#) narrated by State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown about the mosquito-borne virus and how to protect yourself and your family. For more information about preventing mosquito and tickborne illness, visit [www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks](http://www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks).

### **Water and Pool Safety**

Drowning is a leading cause of death among young children, both nationally and in Massachusetts, with backyard pools posing the highest risk for children under the age of 5. To help prevent water-related injury and drowning:

- Children should be supervised in and around water at all times.
- Whenever infants and toddlers are in or around water, including the bathtub, an adult should be within an arm's length at all times providing "touch supervision."
- Completely separate the house and play area of the yard from the pool area with a fence. Consider automatic door locks or alarms to prevent access.
- Remove floats, balls, and other toys from the pool after use so that children are not tempted to reach for them. After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they cannot get back in.
- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver) and a phone by the pool.
- For children who cannot swim, use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Do not use toys such as "water wings" or "noodles" in place of life jackets. These are not designed to keep swimmers safe.

In public swimming areas:

- Be sure to practice social distancing from others before and after you swim and wear a cloth face covering or mask when you cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
- Select swimming sites that have lifeguards whenever possible, and swim only in designated swimming areas.
- Always swim with a buddy.

### **Window Safety**

Falls are the leading cause of injury to children, and falls from windows involving young children are especially serious. Window falls are preventable. Screens are not strong enough to protect children from falling out of windows. In order to prevent window falls, parents and caregivers should:

- Keep furniture – and anything a child can climb on – away from windows.
- Open windows from the top, not the bottom, when possible and lock all unopened doors and windows.
- Be sure children are always supervised.
- Install quick-release window guards which can be found in most hardware stores.

Additional tips on preventing falls among children can be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [fall prevention website](#).

To learn more about childhood injury prevention, visit the [DPH injury prevention and control program](#) website.

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**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
6/12	1,097	23
<b>Total (as of 6/12)</b>	<b>56,405</b>	<b>493</b>

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 6/12)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	<b>22,659</b>
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	<b>366</b>
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	<b>4,736</b>

**Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 6/12 by Fallon Ambulance Service)**

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	12,371
Staff	18,125
<b>Total Tests</b>	<b>30,496</b>
Number of Locations	<b>2,009</b>

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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM

**Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update**

- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is preparing for the first outdoor visits on June 16. 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 - with only 8 remaining positive - a marked improvement and a promising sign of recovery. Staff testing results are forthcoming.
  - The Home is actively preparing to resume outdoor visitation per the state-issued guidelines on June 15, and on Monday of this week, shared visitation scheduling and protocols with families and loved ones. 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.
- 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 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.

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- Staff continue to work with veterans on iPad training, as iPads are being used 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](mailto: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 Soldiers' Home in Holyoke presented a virtual Memorial Day service, as part of the state's efforts to hold Memorial Day events virtually this year to honor military who have sacrificed for our country, and veterans who have passed in the last year. The program will continue to be available for viewing on their [Facebook page](#).
- **All veteran residents have been retested, and the results as of June 12 are as follows:**
  - Retesting results of all residents:
    - 8 veteran residents are positive (across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center), and 2 results were inconclusive and are being treated as positive
    - 127 veteran residents have tested negative
  - Resident locations:
    - 100 residents are onsite
    - 30 residents are offsite
      - 27 residents are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
      - 3 residents are receiving acute care offsite
  - 94 veteran resident deaths (76 positive, 17 negatives, 1 unknown)
- Employees at the Home have been retested. There are only 2 positives remaining, and 4 inconclusive results, who will be retested.

### 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 continue to be largely negative - with only 6 remaining positive. Staff testing results are forthcoming.
  - The Home is actively preparing to resume outdoor visitation per the state-issued guidelines on June 15, and on Monday of this week, shared visitation scheduling and protocols with families and loved ones. 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.
- 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.

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- Video visits between veteran residents and their loved ones are continuing with support from the Chelsea Soldiers' Home Social Work team and staff. Families can request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at [CSH@mass.gov](mailto:CSH@mass.gov) and through phone and video conversations. Medical information can only be shared with an authorized health care proxy.
- 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 Soldiers' Home in Chelsea presented a virtual Memorial Day service, as part of the state's efforts to hold Memorial Day events virtually this year to honor military who have sacrificed for our country, and veterans who have passed in the last year. The program is still available for viewing on the Home's [Facebook page](#).
- **All veteran residents have been retested, and the results as of June 12 are as follows:**
  - 6 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 208 veteran residents who have tested negative
  - 41 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 10 tested negative)
- All employees are being retested, and the cumulative results as of June 8 are: 60 employees have tested positive. These results will be updated when all staff testing results are received.

## *Resources*

### **COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Sites**

The Commonwealth's COVID-19 Command Center and MEMA have stood up regional isolation and recovery sites located in hotels across the state. Providers or individuals from Boston can access isolation sites by calling (617) 534-5050. Individuals who do not live in Boston can access Isolation & Recovery Sites in Everett, Taunton, and Northampton by calling (617) 367-5150 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

More information, to include clinical and financial eligibility, can be found [here](#).

### **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,



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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](#)

### 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.

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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.

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](https://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.

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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.