

Monday, July 6, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

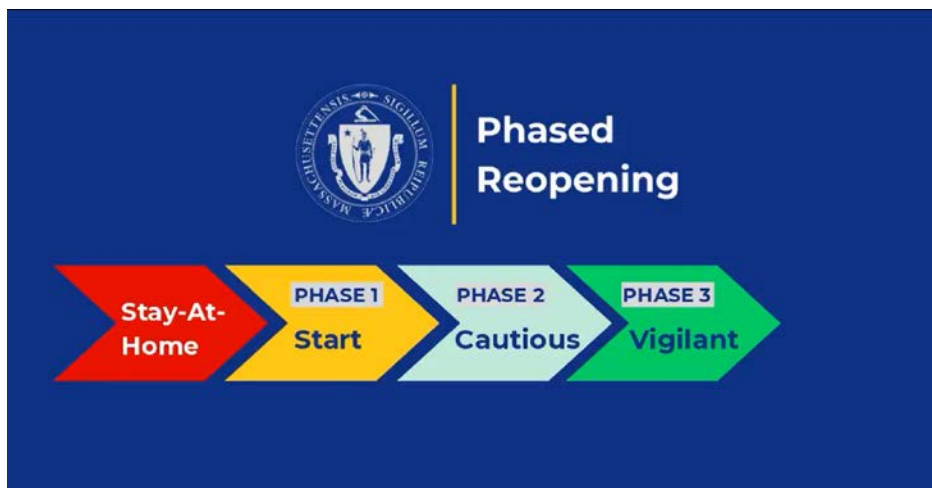
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

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

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Transition to Third Phase of Four-Phase Approach
- Public Health Data: Daily Dashboard Indicators
- Revised DPH Recommendations for Diagnostic COVID-19 Testing
- 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 7/6**

104,659 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

7,983 Deaths among confirmed cases

893,939 individuals tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 7/6**

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:

2,886,267 Total Cases

129,811 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

Testing Update:

Yesterday (July 5th) 5,893 new molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with 136 newly reported confirmed positive. Over 1,124,217 molecular tests have been conducted to date.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

As of July 5th, 636 people have been hospitalized, with 100 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a decline of over 90% since mid-April. See today's daily Dashboard Indicators beginning on page 4.

Transition to Third Phase of Four-Phase Approach

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that Phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening plan will begin today and updates on gatherings will be in effect. For the City of Boston, Phase III and the gatherings order will take effect on Monday, July 13.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) also issued updated guidance to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Step One of Phase III:

On May 18, the administration released a four-phased plan to reopen the economy based on public health data, spending at least three weeks in each phase. Key public health data, such as new cases and hospitalizations, have been closely monitored and have seen a decline allowing for Phase III to begin today. Phase III will begin on July 13 in the City of Boston.

Since mid-April, the 7-day average for the positive COVID-19 test rate is down 94 percent, the 3-day average of hospitalized patients is down 83 percent and the number of hospitals in surge is down 95 percent. More than 1,000,000 total COVID-19 tests have been administered, and testing continues throughout the state.

The following businesses will be eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III, subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations:

- Movie theaters and outdoor performance venues;
- Museums, cultural and historical sites;
- Fitness centers and health clubs;
- Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact;
- Professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators

Full guidance and list of businesses eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III can be found at www.mass.gov/reopening. Businesses and sectors set to begin opening in Phase III are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards.

Revised Gatherings Order:

Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space.

Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if

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proper social distancing measures are possible. This revised order does not supersede previously issued sector guidance, and is effective beginning Monday, July 6. It will be effective Monday, July 13 in the City of Boston.

Public Health Guidance:

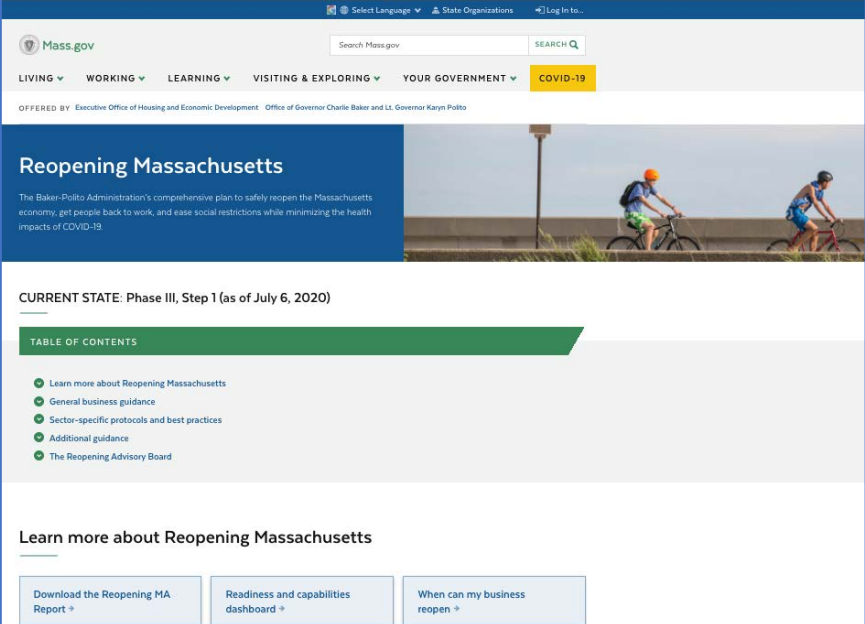
In Phase III, health care providers may continue to provide in-person procedures and services as allowed in Phase II, with the addition of certain group treatment programs and day programs. These programs include adult day health, day habilitation programs, and substance abuse services day treatment and outpatient services. Certain human services programs can reopen including community-based day services for adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities and psychosocial rehabilitation clubhouses.

Health care providers are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards, and must continue to utilize prioritization policies established in Phase II for care delivery and scheduling, as well as monitor patient volume for non-essential, elective procedures and services.

Read the full guidance [here](#).

In Phase III, visitation guidelines have been updated for 24/7 congregate care facilities and programs overseen by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, including the Departments of Developmental Services, Youth Services, Children and Families, Public Health, Mental Health and the Mass Rehabilitation Commission. Offsite visits, including overnight visits, will be allowed, under specific guidelines. Other updated guidelines, including visitation for long term care facilities, was also released. Complete visitation guidance is available at www.mass.gov/hhs/reopening.

MassHealth will also extend its current telehealth flexibility through at least the end of the year to ensure member access to critical health care services and encourage continued adherence to preventative public health precautions.




The screenshot shows the 'Reopening Massachusetts' page on the Mass.gov website. The page features a blue header with navigation links for LIVING, WORKING, LEARNING, VISITING & EXPLORING, YOUR GOVERNMENT, and COVID-19. Below the header, there is a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area is titled 'Reopening Massachusetts' and includes a sub-header 'CURRENT STATE: Phase III, Step 1 (as of July 6, 2020)'. A 'TABLE OF CONTENTS' section lists four items: 'Learn more about Reopening Massachusetts', 'General business guidance', 'Sector-specific protocols and best practices', 'Additional guidance', and 'The Reopening Advisory Board'. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Download the Reopening MA Report', 'Readiness and capabilities dashboard', and 'When can my business reopen'.

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COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the July 6th Daily Dashboard is provided below:



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - **Monday, July 06, 2020**

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Newly Reported Confirmed Cases Today

157

Total Confirmed Cases

104,659

Newly Reported Deaths among Confirmed Today

15

Total Deaths among Confirmed Cases

7,983

New Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests

7,726

Total Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests

893,939

Total Molecular Tests Administered

1,134,568


Legend

- Positive trend
- In progress
- Negative trend

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	●

Please note: The front page of the dashboard has been reformatted. Starting today, 7/6, probable case and death information can be found on page 21. Antibody tests (individual and total numbers) can be found on page 7.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - **Monday, July 06, 2020**

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Percent Change Since April 15th

7 Day Weighted Average of Positive Molecular Test Rate

Date	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5
Rate	4.6%	4.6%	4.2%	3.9%	3.5%	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	

-94 %

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

Date	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5
Patients	1,503	1,463	1,419	1,382	1,331	1,246	1,157	1,084	1,045	1,023	1,004	987	975	962	937	937	937	905	851	794	769	760	748	752	725	699	659	644	626	

-83 %

Number of Hospitals using Surge Capacity

Date	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5
Hospitals	7	4	4	4	5	3	1	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	2	1	3	4	5	3	2	1	

-95 %

3 Day Average of COVID-19 Deaths**

Date	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3
Deaths	38	36	40	36	35	34	36	33	32	31	27	26	22	28	24	26	23	27	25	24	21	20	21	19	17	18	19	16

-89 %

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

Important Updates

Revised DPH Recommendations for Diagnostic COVID-19 Testing:

On Friday, July 3rd, DPH posted updated guidance on diagnostic COVID-19 testing. The updated guidelines are contained in a memo sent to healthcare providers, clinical laboratories, and local boards of health. The memo incorporates a variety of changes, including:

- Expanding testing of asymptomatic individuals at the discretion of their healthcare provider
- Recommending testing of children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome
- Testing of all individuals for COVID-19 upon admission to a healthcare facility
- Information on re-testing of previously COVID-19 positive individuals who have been cleared from isolation

To review the new guidelines issued by DPH, [visit the COVID-19 Testing Guidance website](#).

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

Note: The Family Resource Line is available Monday-Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Onsite Testing: Long Term Care

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 7/6)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	23,555
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	369
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	5,127

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 7/6 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,446
Staff	17,746
Total Tests	29,192
Number of Locations	2,002



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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



ICYMI: Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries Resume Military Committal Services (News Release)

Beginning July 3, 2020, the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries (MVMC) in Agawam and Winchendon will resume Military Committal Services for veterans who have died. Military Committal Services include the Folding of the Flag, Taps, and a Firing Volley. Military Committal Services are resuming with [revised protocols](#) based on infection control guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

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Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- In June, the Baker-Polito Administration released the independent report ordered by Governor Baker to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers' Home, and 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.
- 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.
- Phase 1 of the refresh project, which involved updating the interiors of the 3rd floor units, is nearing completion this month.
- 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.
 - If there is any sign of COVID-like symptoms, residents are retested.
- The Soldiers' Home has resumed additional religious services to residents, streaming mass over CCTV, and has opened up the chapel for residents to visit one at a time for infection control. In nice weather, services will be offered outside with social distancing.
- 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 July 6 is as follows:**
 - The current status of all residents:
 - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 57 veterans are negative

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- 83 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
- 5 veterans has a pending test result
- 1 veteran has refused testing
- Resident locations:
 - 117 veterans are onsite
 - 29 veterans are offsite
 - 26 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 3 veterans are receiving acute care offsite
- Since March 1, there have been 99 veteran deaths (76 deaths of veterans who tested positive, 19 veterans who tested negative, 1 veteran whose status was unknown, 3 veterans were clinically recovered)
 - Today's update includes the death of one individual who was recovered, and whose medical orders were do not resuscitate and do not hospitalize.
- Employees at the Home have been retested and all are clinically recovered.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has welcomed 108 visits between veterans and loved ones since resuming outdoor visitation. 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 Home announced eased restrictions for Dorm residents beginning last week. Dorm residents may order food delivery from area restaurants, drive in their personal vehicles off-site to medical appointments, and the curfew has been extended, and is now from 11pm - 5am.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea is reporting the recovery of residents based on clinical determinations following the retesting of all veterans, and 39 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 July 6 is as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 1 veteran resident is positive
 - 155 veteran residents have tested negative
 - 39 residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 43 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 11 tested negative, 1 clinically recovered)
 - Employees:

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- Employees have been retested, 4 remain 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:

- 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.

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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:

Overview of COVID-19 Testing	Importance of COVID-19 Testing	How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Haitian Creole • Vietnamese

- [10 Tips for at home quarantine or self-monitoring](#)

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- [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. 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