

Thursday, February 4, 2021

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

*The Command Center Situation Report is published weekly.
The next report will be published on Thursday, 2/11/21.*



Governor Baker details the more than 120,000 new vaccination appointments being added this week as he tours the mass vaccination site at Fenway Park. This site is one of 125 vaccination locations statewide.

In This Week's Report:

- Latest Data: Public Health Update
- Week in Review: Key State Actions
 - Vaccine Online Booking Process
 - Children to Receive Additional Food Benefits
 - \$174 Million in Grants, Increase Capacity Limits
 - DPH, Emergency Management, and Disaster Recovery Updates
 - Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Weekly Update

Helpful Links:

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](#)
- [When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts](#)
- [Public Messaging Resources for Municipalities & Businesses](#)
- [Mass.gov/findfoodhelp](#)
- [HandHoldMA.org](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)



Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts **current as of 2/4**

507,166 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

14,489 Deaths among confirmed cases

13,955,444 tests for the virus conducted to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals, and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 2/4**

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:

26,277,125 Total Cases

445,264 Deaths

57 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, American Samoa, and US V.I.)

Social Distancing Basics:

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

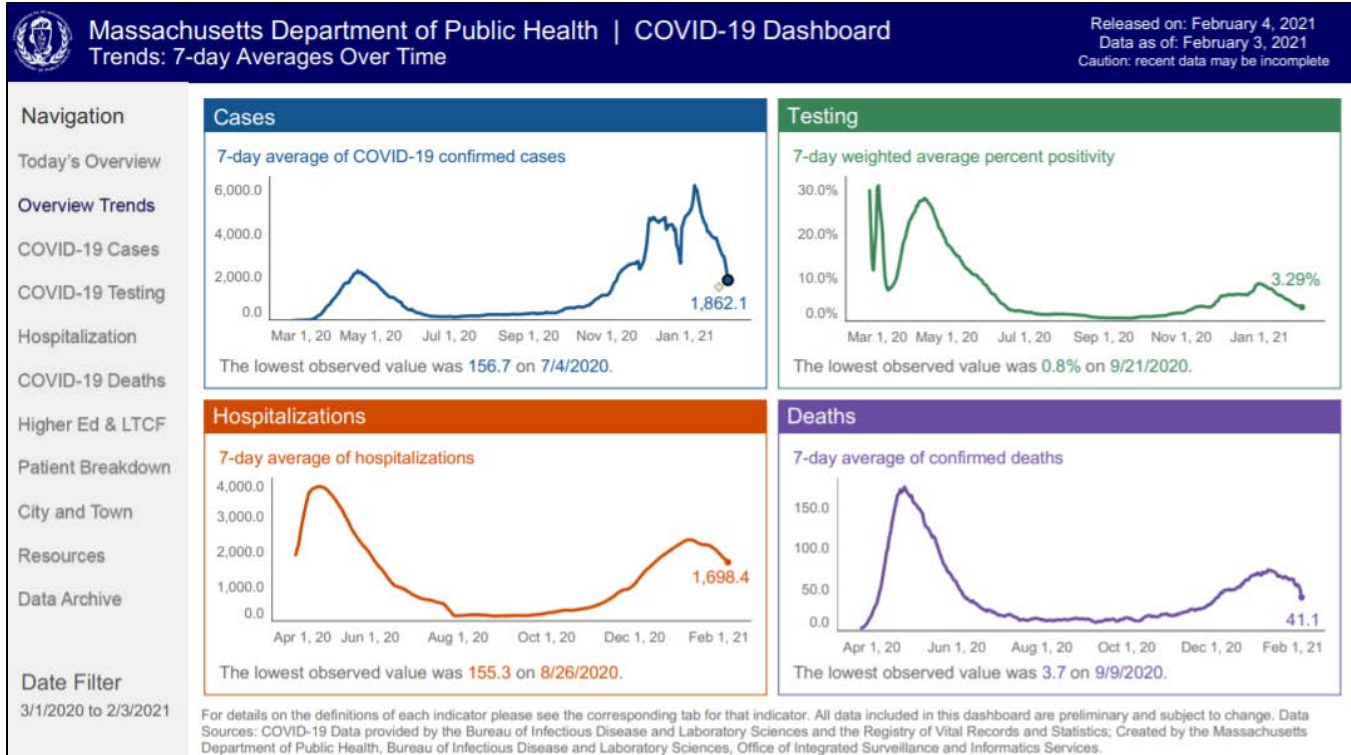
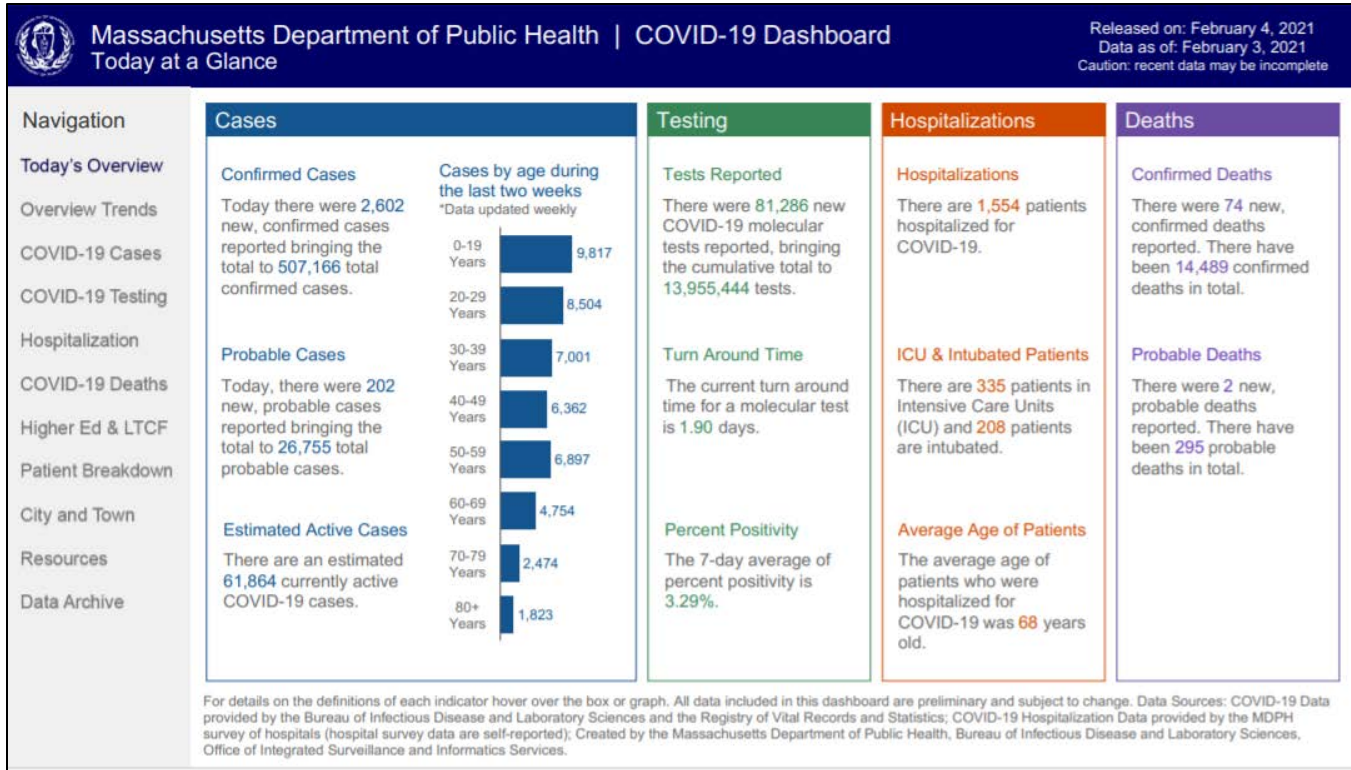
If you go out for essential needs:

- ✓ Avoid crowds
- ✓ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ✓ Don't shake hands or hug
- ✓ Wear a face covering or mask.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Latest Data: COVID-19 Public Health Update

Key indicators from today's interactive dashboard are below.



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Weekly Public Health Report:

The Command Center released the [Weekly Public Health Report, with town by town information, including the weekly listing of city and town risk levels](#) on Thursday, 2/4. The report also includes granular information on cases by county, biweekly testing rates, contact tracing information (including active COVID cluster information by Exposure Setting Type), hospitalization data, race and ethnicity data, information about cases in long term care facilities, and PPE distribution data.

Week in Review: State Actions

Command Center Announces More Details for Vaccine Online Booking Process

On Wednesday, the Baker-Polito Administration provided an update on COVID-19 vaccination efforts and announced new vaccination locations across the Commonwealth. The Administration continues to expand Commonwealth's vaccination infrastructure. There are currently 125 vaccination sites in Massachusetts, and the Administration expects this will ramp up to 165 sites by mid-February. Over 120,000 appointments will be made available over the course of this week.



It is expected to take several weeks for residents to secure appointments due to limited supply of vaccines from the federal government. **Residents can visit www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine to check when they are eligible to get the vaccine, find an appointment at a location near them, and get ready for their appointment.**

Mass Vaccination Sites

Each Thursday, new appointments will be available for the mass vaccination sites. This week, over 55,000 new appointments will go live for the following week. Residents can use the map or ZIP Code search tool to find a vaccination location near them at www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccine.

In total, the Administration plans to stand up at least seven mass vaccination sites across the Commonwealth, to ensure every resident who wants a vaccine, has access.

Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury: In collaboration with the City of Boston, the vaccination site at the Reggie Lewis Center opened this week. This site is currently serving residents of Boston but will transition to being a mass vaccination site at the end of the month.

Fenway Park in Boston: Fenway Park officially opened to the public on Monday, February 1. All eligible groups can get vaccinated at this location. By end of the day Tuesday, 1,200 doses have been administered at the site. About 500 doses per day are expected to be given each day this week. Next week, Fenway will ramp up to 1,000 doses a day, and for the week after that 1,250. The Administration expects this site to eventually ramp up to do about 8,000 doses a week.

Gillette Stadium in Foxboro: Opened on Friday, January 15. To date, 23,000 doses have been administered.

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DoubleTree Hotel in Danvers: Today, the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Danvers opened to the public, serving all eligible priority groups. The Administration expects 500 doses to be administered today.

Eastfield Mall in Springfield: The Eastfield Mall in Springfield opened on Friday, January 29. To date, 2,741 doses have been administered.

Mass vaccination sites are listed as **large red stars** on the map at www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies including Walgreens and CVS Health post appointments daily, totaling over 15,500 per week. Retail pharmacy sites like Stop and Shop and Hannaford and Topco sites including Wegmans, Big Y and Price Chopper post 4,600 appointments weekly.

The COVID-19 Response Command Center is also working to set up sites in the communities hardest hit by COVID-19. This week, 8 new Walgreens sites opened in some of these communities: 2 sites in Mattapan, 2 sites in Roxbury, Dorchester, Chelsea, Revere, Everett. A community vaccination site also opened in Brockton, which is being run by their local board of health.

Next week, under the Retail Pharmacy Partnership Program CVS Health will open an additional 30 pharmacy sites primarily in areas that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID. This effort will add 21,000 appointments, which will come online in the next week or so.

Pharmacy and grocery vaccination locations are listed as **blue stars** on the map at www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Other Providers

Other provider sites including healthcare locations and local vaccination sites will make over 57,000 appointments available over the course of this week. These sites include: Community Health Centers, Medical Centers, Hospital Providers, and community vaccination clinics operated by local health departments.

On the map at www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine, health care locations are listed as **green stars** and local vaccination clinics operated by local health departments are listed as **yellow stars**.

\$174 Million in Grants to 4,043 Additional Small Businesses for COVID Relief, Increases Capacity Limits for Businesses and Other Activities

Today, approximately \$173.9 million in awards to 4,043 additional small businesses in the sixth round of COVID relief grants administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC). This program is focused on serving businesses that have been most impacted by the pandemic, including restaurants, bars, caterers, personal services, and independent retailers.

The Administration also announced that effective Monday, February 8th at 5:00 AM, businesses can operate at 40% capacity. This is an increase from an existing order limiting capacity to 25% for many businesses that expires Monday.



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Beginning when the order expires, restaurants and close contact personal services will also be allowed to operate at a 40% capacity limit.

Additionally, the Administration announced that current restrictions limiting gathering sizes to 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors would remain in place for the present time. All other orders and safety guidance remain in place throughout the Commonwealth as the state continues to fight COVID-19 and vaccination ramps up in all regions.

COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAMS

To date, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$450 million in direct financial support to 9,900 small businesses. This funding has been made available through a \$668 million business [relief fund](#) set up in December, as well as a \$50.8 million fund for small and diverse businesses included in the [economic recovery package](#) announced in October.

In parallel with the awards announced today, MGCC is engaging with applicants to the Small Business and Sector-Specific Grant Programs that meet sector and demographic priorities but are missing certain documents that are necessary to be considered for an award. Those applicants will be contacted beginning today, February 4th, and MGCC will work with those businesses over the coming weeks to finalize their applications.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS

Effective Monday, February 8th at 5:00 AM, those businesses and other sectors in Massachusetts currently limited to 25% capacity following an across the board capacity reduction on December 26, 2020 will be permitted to increase to a 40% capacity limit. Businesses and activities affected by the adjustment include:

- Arcades and Recreational Businesses
- Driving and Flight Schools
- Gyms/Health Clubs
- Libraries
- Museums
- Retail
- Offices
- Places of Worship
- Lodging (common areas)
- Golf (indoor areas)
- Movie Theaters (no more than 50 people per theater)



In addition, restaurants and close contact personal services will now be allowed to operate at a 40% capacity limit, which reflects an increase from the 25% limit imposed in December. As under the current 25% limit, workers and staff will not count towards the occupancy count for restaurants and close contact personal services. The Commonwealth remains in Phase 3, Step 1 of the Baker-Polito Administration's reopening plan. Phase 3, Step 2 businesses, including indoor performance venues and indoor recreation businesses like roller rinks and trampoline parks, remain closed.

GATHERING LIMITS The current gathering limits, in place since December 26, are being extended. Indoor gatherings and events will remain limited to 10 people. Outdoor gatherings and events will remain limited to 25 people. The gathering limits apply equally to private homes, event venues, and other public spaces. Click [here](#) to read the read the updated gatherings order.

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Important Updates

Department of Public Health Updates:

- Commissioner Bharel did a series of TV and radio interviews today on vaccine safety, the increasing availability of appointments, the new variants, and keeping to your household for Super Bowl gatherings. View the WBZ TV interview [here](#).
- “Trust the Facts, Get the Vax,” the new public information campaign will air this weekend during the Super Bowl pregame show, with a :30 sec video on vaccine safety recorded with MA physicians. This was a project of the Governor’s Office and MHA with assistance from DPH.
- The COVID-19 vaccine website has been revamped to improve user experience for locating vaccination sites and making appointments at www.mass.gov/covidvaccine.
- The weekly public health report publishes on Thursdays at 5pm with city and town data. Look for it [here](#).
- DPH issued an [Order](#) regarding vaccine reporting to the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS)
- DPH issued a Bulletin – What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know, for the week of 1/28. This Bulletin offers the Latest Numbers, Who to Vaccinate This Week, What to Know This Week, Where to go when you have questions about COVID-19 vaccination, and Resources and Learning Opportunities.
- DPH Epidemiology Line handled 560 COVID-19 calls and 80 non-COVID-19 calls for a total of 640 calls from 1/18 through 1/24.
- MA211 received 6,525 calls from Monday 1/25 through Sunday 1/31 for a new total of 205,738.
- DPH received Cycle 10 allocations on 2/3 as follows: Bamlanivimab 100 doses and Regeneron 0 doses due to a repackaging project being conducted by the supplier. This allocation is for a two-week period. The Therapeutics Working Group is recommending an equitable allocation strategy.
- As of 2/2/21, the Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps has 298 volunteers supporting 52 local boards of health. For more information about the Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps, please visit the [APHVC webpage](#) on Mass.gov.
- DPH issued updated [Long Term Care Visitation Guidance](#). This updated guidance provides modifications to the conditions for visitation, communal dining, and group activities.
- DPH issued updated guidance for [BinaxNOW Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing for Long-Term Care Facilities](#), extending the BinaxNOW test kit distribution of 8 tests per bed for long-term care facilities for the months of February and March.
- DPH issued updated guidance for [Preventing COVID-19 Infections and Use of Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) in BSAS-licensed/contracted Programs](#).
- Due to decreasing COVID -19 cases and hospitalizations, improving hospital capacity, and a diminishing for daily load balancing, HMCC Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be moved to Tier 3, effective 2/8. This modification is made in accordance with the [DPH COVID-19 Resurgence Planning and Response Guidance for Acute Care Hospitals](#). HMCC Region 5 remains in Tier 4 as the hospitals in the region continue to respond to capacity constraints. DPH and the COVID-19 Command Center will continue to work closely with all regions to support strategies to improve hospital capacity statewide.
- For the date range of 1/22 – 1/28, 93 of 96 Massachusetts hospitals were 100% compliant in their COVID-19 data submissions to the DPH WebEOC portal which is submitted to the federal HHS Protect portal daily.
- There are currently 14 Rapid Response Teams deployed to nursing homes across the Commonwealth. Teams are also helping nursing homes on the day of their Vaccine Clinics to ensure staff and residents are monitored after vaccination.
- There are also 10 National Guard Teams deployed and supporting nursing and rest homes.

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- DPH has collaborated on the establishment of [alternate medical sites](#) (or “Field Medical Stations”) to mitigate stress on health care systems as cases increase. The [Lowell General Hospital Alternative Care Site](#) opened on 1/4/21, and the [UMASS Memorial Medical Center DCU Center Field Hospital](#) opened on 12/6/20. In addition, DPH has contracted with ambulance services in each of the five EMS Regions to help ensure transport capability to alternate medical sites.

Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Updates:

Mass Care

- 4 state contracted isolation/recovery hotels in the communities of Everett, Pittsfield, Taunton, and Wakefield continue to receive client placements: 128 individuals are currently housed in the program.
 - Top 5 referring cities:
 - Boston (302)
 - Worcester (183)
 - Springfield (160)
 - Cambridge (115)
 - Brockton (109)
 - To date, a total of 1,899 residents have been placed in these hotels for safe isolation and recovery, an increase of 48 since last week.

Community Food Box Program Update (1/29 to 2/4):

MEMA is partnering with the Salvation Army, and a vendor, to bring in shelf-stable food boxes each week to support communities in their effort to deliver food to individuals and families in quarantine and isolation who require assistance accessing food. Each week MEMA’s warehouse receives a delivery of shelf-stable food boxes. Distribution of food boxes is coordinated between MEMA and communities in need via a request through WebEOC. The table below reflects the current food box inventory, and number of food boxes distributed to communities during the weekly reporting period (data is updated every Friday).

Total Number of Food Boxes in MEMA’s Inventory	Total Number of Food Boxes Distributed to One or More Local Communities During the Reporting Period	Total Number of Communities that Received Food Boxes During the Reporting Period
3,602	907	9

Logistics (including Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies)

- 83 Orders prepared for pickup or delivery from the MEMA State Logistics Warehouse from 1/29-2/4.
- Each of the hotels in Pittsfield, Wakefield, Everett, and Taunton were resupplied with needed equipment this week.
- DPH coordinated 9 deliveries to health care entities on Monday (2/1) (3 PPE/1 testing supplies, 4 BinaxNOW kits and 1 therapeutic); 46 deliveries were made on Tuesday (2/2) (1 PPE/4 testing supplies and 41 BinaxNOW kits); 53 deliveries were made on Wednesday (2/3) (3 PPE/2 testing supplies, 47 BinaxNOW kits and 1 therapeutic); 29 deliveries were made on Thursday (2/4) (3 PPE/1 testing supplies and 25 BinaxNOW kits); and 18 deliveries have been scheduled for Friday (2/5) (4PPE/1 testing supplies and 13 BinaxNOW kits).

Disaster Recovery

On March 27, 2020, 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

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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. Highlights from the Disaster Recovery process include the following:

<p style="text-align: right;">Data as of: 1/29/2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMA COVID-19 EXECUTIVE DASHBOARD AGGREGATE PROGRAM VIEW</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Financial data represents 75% federal cost share; figures do not include MEMA management cost allowance</i></p>			
Overall (Best Available Estimate)	Submitted (Eligibility & Cost Review)	Approved* (by FEMA)	Paid (by MEMA)
\$897.9M +\$216.82M	\$683.5M +\$214.38M	\$291.6M \$0	\$7.8M +\$433.80K
901 Projects +7	627 Projects +10	88 Projects 0	50 Projects +11
Approved Applicants: 646			

- Online Applicant Technical Assistant Requests: **504**
- Request for FEMA RPA Applicants: **662**
- FEMA obligated the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Vaccination Program Expedited Project Worksheet at 100% Cost Share for \$213,284,522.50 on February 2, 2021.
- New project obligations (17): \$217,406,413.40
- MEMA conducted state-wide Applicant webinar on 2/4/21 to review Public Assistance guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination expenses. Presentation PowerPoint, recording, and Q&A documents will be made available to all attendees and on MEMA's website in the coming days.
- MEMA is in the process of collecting non-congregate shelter data for 1/15-2/15 FEMA reporting period.
- MEMA is coordinating with FEMA to obtain additional eligibility guidance for the new Presidential Executive Orders and memorandums.

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 2/4)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	34,105
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	421
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	8,187



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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



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Holyoke Soldiers' Home Weekly Update (current as of 2/2/21)

- Following the completion of Phase II of the Refresh Project, Veterans residing at Holyoke Medical Center since April 2020 have returned to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke in a project known as Operation Bring'em Home. The refresh project is an important initiative to ensure infection control standards are met throughout the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.
- CVS Health was on site at the Soldiers' Home on January 19 to administer the second dose of the vaccine and to also vaccinate those who were not vaccinated in the first round. On December 29, the first veteran residents and staff at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke received the COVID-19 vaccination. CVS Health will be back at the Soldiers' Home on February 9 to administer the second dose of the vaccine and will also provide vaccinations to those who were not vaccinated in the first round.
 - 111 veteran residents and 153 staff have received both doses.
 - 6 veteran residents and 84 staff received their first dose.
- The Home is strongly encouraging all staff to receive the vaccine. Staff are being provided with educational information about the COVID-19 vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccine FAQ sheets, and the Nurse Education Team and Medical Team held vaccine informational forums. The materials are available in both English and Spanish.
- Home Base, a partnership of the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital, is extending their free veteran counseling offerings to our Soldier's Home families and staff.
- The Soldiers' Home is working with Home Base, a veteran support organization, to help improve the quality of life, increase psychosocial interventions to address isolation during the pandemic. Home Base has linked us to virtual concerts provided by professional and amateur volunteers. The concerts are interactive—featuring musical performances and conversation between the Veterans and musicians. The concerts occur every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. The team at Home Base is working with Social Work, Recreation and Nursing to provide other opportunities for virtual activities.
- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke continues to prioritize virtual visitation and family communication as visitation and movement throughout the facility have been suspended and PPE protocols have been heightened, per infection control protocol, since November 20 for all units until further notice. Families are encouraged to continue video visits for regular family communication through video chat, and the Family Line is available for ad hoc updates with support from social work and clinical staff. Virtual visits can be scheduled by calling the Family Line 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. Note: The Soldiers' Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file.
- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is taking every precaution to mitigate COVID-19 entering and spreading at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. Based on guidance from DPH, and in consultation with infection control experts, the Home is continuing mandatory 2 times per week testing for all staff and residents. Increased testing frequency will allow us to detect COVID-19 early and will continue until the Home receives 14 consecutive days of negative results.
 - The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke has been intently focused on following infection control procedures and maintaining best practices for the safety of veteran residents and staff. All veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is being conducted for veterans both on- and off-site as clinically appropriate. The Soldiers' Home's medical team is making all clinical decisions following [the latest CDC guidance](#), which continues to evolve as the medical community learns more about this new virus.

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- In addition to mandatory testing at state-operated 24/7 facilities, daily symptom checking and routine staff surveillance testing are important tools to protect staff, residents and visitors and will remain in place until such time there is a medical breakthrough or a safe and effective vaccine for COVID 19. Staff who are not feeling well are instructed not to come to work and to contact their health care provider. If staff show any signs of COVID-symptoms, they are required to self-quarantine at home, per CDC guidance for health care workers.
- 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.
- The Commonwealth has been making capital investments to address the short and long-term needs of the Home. This includes a short-term Refresh Project and a longer-term Rapid Planning Capital Project for a future Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. While the expedited capital project will address long-term facility needs, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans' Services, and Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance have been addressing immediate capital needs, including a \$6 million refresh of units to significantly improve infection control for the residents and staff.
 - On Veterans Day, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the next steps for the expedited capital project for the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. Following the conclusion of the 12-week [Rapid Planning Phase](#) of the project, the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance released the [needs assessment report](#), and announced the selection of Payette Associates for the next phase as the design firm to lead the design and planning phase, the next step of the expedited capital project. Payette will build on the evaluation they previously completed, and will develop a full project scope, refine the plan, and confirm the budget, timelines, and ensure conformity with the regulatory process. One of the early deliverables is the preparation of the submission for the VA State Home Construction Grant by its April 15, 2021 deadline. The website for the project is www.mass.gov/HolyokeSHProject.
- 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 status of all residents as of February 2 is as follows:
 - Status:
 - 0 veteran residents are positive and not clinically recovered
 - 2 veteran residents are negative
 - 44 veteran residents have a pending test. Please note that all veteran residents and staff are now being tested twice weekly, which will increase the number of pending tests.
 - 76 veteran residents have been determined clinically recovered 0 veteran residents have refused testing
 - Resident locations:
 - 118 veteran residents are onsite
 - 4 veteran residents are receiving acute care offsite
- Since March 1, there have been 77 deaths of veteran residents who tested positive
- Following the most recent staff surveillance testing
 - 4 tested positive

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- All others who previously tested positive are clinically recovered

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Weekly Update (current as of 2/2/21)

- CVS Health returned to the Soldiers' Home on January 19 and 20 to administer the second dose of the vaccine, while also providing vaccinations to those who were not vaccinated in the first round. On December 29 and 30, the first veteran residents and staff at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea received the COVID-19 vaccination. CVS Health will be back at the Soldiers' Home on February 9 to administer the second dose of the vaccine and will also provide vaccinations to those who were not vaccinated in the first round.
 - 145 residents and 148 staff have received both doses.
 - 18 veteran residents and 97 staff received their first dose.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea continues to prioritize virtual visitation, as visitation and movement throughout the facility remains suspended for all units until further notice per infection control protocol. The Home remains vigilant in its infection control, including enhanced precautions throughout the facility and strict infection control protocols to keep veteran residents and staff safe, including continuing staff education, screening, and testing. Visitation will resume after 14 consecutive days without a new positive test.
- Families can request updates on their loved ones by contacting their assigned social worker, or emailing the Home at CSH@mass.gov. They can schedule virtual visits by video or phone call. Medical information can only be shared with an authorized health care proxy.
- Clinical staff closely monitor any changes in residents, and the Soldiers' Home's medical team is making all clinical decisions following [the latest CDC guidance](#), which continues to evolve as the medical community learns more about this new virus. The CDC recommends making medical decisions regarding when to end isolation and determine that the patient has recovered based on symptoms and time elapsed.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea currently weekly staff surveillance testing. In accordance with [CMS rules](#), the Soldiers' Home is now conducting weekly testing until the facility is 14 days without positive test results. These tests are provided at no cost to employees.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea monitors the PPE supply, and continues to receive shipments of PPE. The Incident Command team at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to 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 status as of February 2 is as follows:
 - Residents
 - 2 veteran residents are positive, all in independent living
 - 129 veteran residents are negative
 - 45 veteran residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 0 veteran residents have pending tests
 - Since March 1, there have been 31 deaths of veteran residents who tested positive
 - Following the most recent staff surveillance testing:
 - 29 employees are positive
 - All other employees who previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered

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Communications Resources

Public Messaging Resources for Communities:

The COVID-19 Command Center has produced many communication resources aimed at helping communities inform and educate residents on recent executive orders and guidance related to COVID-19.

[Visitors to the Stop COVID-19 Public Messaging webpage](#) will find both printable flyers, posters, and digital resources in multiple languages on topics such as:

- [When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)
- [Vaccine Graphics](#)
- Statewide guidelines, advisories, and orders
- Staying safe in the community
- Using local public alert systems for COVID-19 information
- Materials for Business
 - [Return to work guidance](#)
 - [Employee Screening Questionnaire](#)
 - [Business guidance – New, Temporary Capacity Limits](#)
 - [Updated safe store tips for retailers](#)

DPH Communication Materials in Multiple Languages

- [Facts Sheets](#)
- [Videos](#)



Resources

MassSupport

MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and managed in partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center, a program of Riverside Community Care.

Contact MassSupport by phone at **888-215-4920** or by email at MassSupport@riversidecc.org

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.

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Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) now reports on the number of positive COVID-19 cases as reported to the DESE by school districts (including charter schools), collaboratives, and approved special education schools. The data only represents what has been reported to DESE. For more information and to view the report people can visit: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/positive-cases/>

COVID-19 Test Site Locator

MEMA, in conjunction with the COVID-19 Command Center, has developed an [interactive map](#) that shows the locations of COVID-19 testing sites around the Commonwealth.

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 daily as enhancements are continuously being added.

Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here](#).

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Get notified by text, email, or phone call in your preferred language. Visit <https://member.everbridge.net/index/406686158291020/#/signup> to sign-up for **AlertsMA** for the latest news on the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19
- 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.

How to Help Out

- Work at an Alternate Care Site in either [Worcester](#) or [Lowell](#)
- [Donate](#) to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund

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 to learn more. 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