

# Tuesday, May 26, 2020

## COVID-19 Command Center

### Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

## Situation Update

The Command Center Situation Report is issued Monday-Friday.

### State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (link in sidebar)
- Governor Baker Provides Daily Update
- Administration Provides Update on Food Security Efforts
- Boston Hope to Stand Down
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



### Helpful Links:

- [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 5/26**

93,693 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

6,473 Deaths

545,481 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 5/26**

Case numbers are updated regularly at noon. Saturday/Sunday reports are preliminary and have not been confirmed with state/territorial health departments.

### Total Cases Reported to CDC:

1,662,414 Total Cases

98,261 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

Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides to discuss the Baker-Polio Administration's recent investments to improved food security during the COVID-19 outbreak. ([See video here](#)).

### Improving Food Security

Last week, the Administration announced [\\$56 million to combat urgent food insecurity](#) to fund several initiatives including a \$36 million COVID-19 Food Security Grant Program. Also last week, the Department of Transitional Assistance [announced that the USDA](#) approved Massachusetts' plan to join an online EBT grocery purchase pilot program.

These initiatives, along with a number of other efforts, are consistent with findings of the Food Security Task Force, which was convened by the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center in response to increased demand for food assistance. The task force is comprised of a broad group of public and private members charged with addressing food insecurity and food supply needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Force developed recommendations in four key actionable categories:

- Develop and implement an emergency food program
- Fortify the food bank system
- Maximize federal resources for food and nutrition
- Reinforce and redeploy the food system infrastructure

The Administration is also implementing a special food benefit for children called Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, which will be delivered to the households of the 500,000+ children who received free and reduced-price school meals across the Commonwealth. Late last week, a series of PSAs, featuring First Lady Lauren Baker, and Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster, to raise awareness of the food benefit.



*Secretary Sudders, and EEA Secretary Theoharides joined today's daily briefing to discuss the Administration's food security efforts.*

Additionally, Shah Foundation, DTA and Project Bread launched [www.MAP-EBT.org](http://www.MAP-EBT.org) to house all the information on P-EBT and outreach materials.

### Daily Update on Testing, Hospitalizations, and PPE Distribution

#### Testing:

- Yesterday (May 25<sup>th</sup>) approximately 8,188 new tests were reported in Massachusetts. 540,561 total tests have been completed to date.
  - Yesterday's 7-day weighted average of positive test rate was 9%. Positive test rates have been around 9% for the past week.

#### Hospitalizations and Capacity:

- As of May 25<sup>st</sup>, the number of hospitalizations continues to trend downward.

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- 2,179 individuals are reported hospitalized.

**Personal Protective Equipment:**

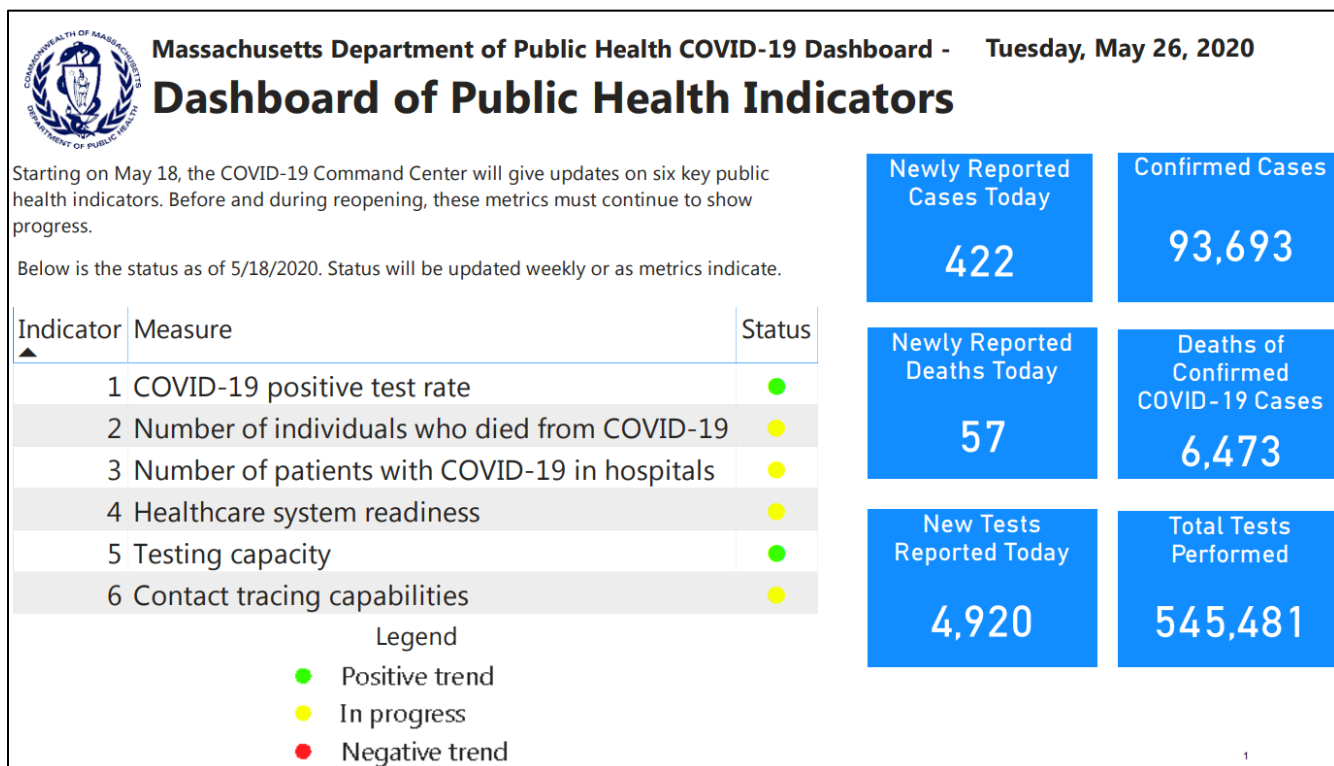
- To date, the Commonwealth has delivered over 12 million pieces of PPE; this includes masks, gloves, gowns, and ventilators distributed to health care workers, first responders and others.
- The Command Center continues to aggressively pursue all supply chain avenues.

**Boston Hope to Stand Down**

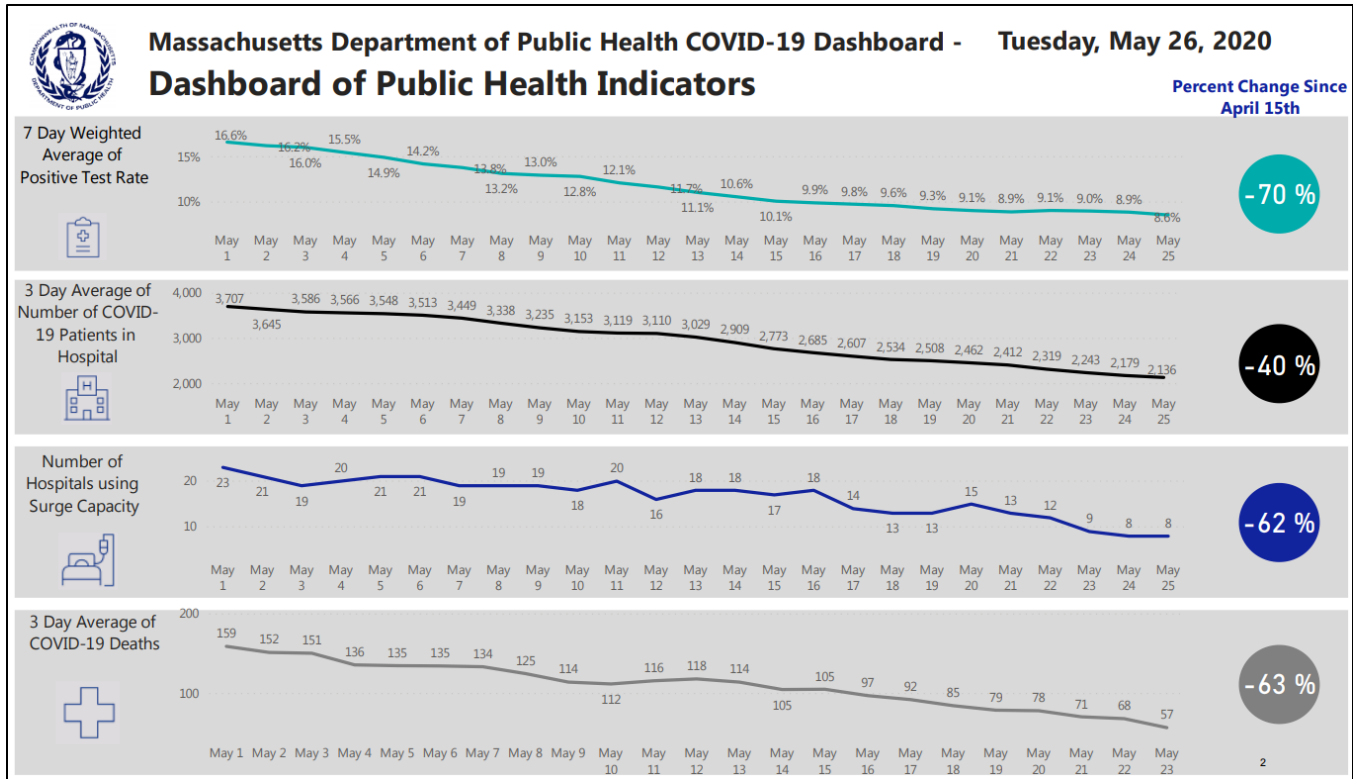
During the Governor's update, he announced that in consultation with Boston Mayor Walsh, and leaders at Mass General Brigham, the Boston Hope Field Medical Station (FMS) would stop accepting new admissions as of today. The Governor said that the facility will remain in place until all existing patients are safely discharged, and that the 1,000 beds will be available throughout the summer if needed. Boston Hope, located at the BCEC, is the last operational FMS in Massachusetts, after sites serving the Worcester area, Cape and the South Coast region closed in recent weeks.

## COVID-19 Public Health Data

The COVID-19 Command Center will include in the DPH daily Dashboard 6 key public health indicators and trend data. Before and during reopening, these metrics must continue to show progress. The Department of Public Health continues to make available the underlying data for 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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## Important Updates

### Virtual Memorial Day Ceremony

Yesterday, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined legislative leaders and local officials to recognize Memorial Day in a virtual ceremony. Secretary of Veterans' Services Francisco Ureña, Senate President Karen Spilka, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, and Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs Co-Chairs Senator Walter F. Timilty and Representative Linda Dean Campbell provided video remarks, and the Massachusetts National Guard performed a special Tribute to the Fallen Wreath Ceremony.

The flags presented to Governor Baker and Major General Gary W. Keefe by the Color Guard during this ceremony have flown above the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam, and the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon, as a mark of solemn respect and in honor of the veterans lost during the COVID-19 public health emergency. For more of the Commonwealth's virtual Memorial Day tributes, visit [www.mass.gov/MemorialDay](http://www.mass.gov/MemorialDay).





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

**Onsite Testing**

| Date                      | Number of Tests Completed | Unique Facilities Visited |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5/26                      | 224                       | 2                         |
| <b>Total (as of 5/26)</b> | <b>47,154</b>             | <b>439</b>                |

| <b>COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 5/26)</b> |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities                        | <b>19,919</b> |
| LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19                | <b>347</b>    |
| Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities                                     | <b>3,963</b>  |

**Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites  
(as of 5/26 by Fallon Ambulance Service)**

| <b>DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities</b> |               |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Clients                                 | 11,549        |
| Staff                                   | 16,478        |
| <b>Total Tests</b>                      | <b>28,027</b> |
| Number of Locations                     | <b>1,827</b>  |



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



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

**Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update**

- On Friday evening, 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](#) following the stream.
- This week, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home is resuming onsite speech therapy and evaluations will begin this week.
- To provide leadership and support of the Social Work team, an Interim Social Work executive will be onsite this week and will consult with the team and leadership.
- 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. As results are received, veteran residents are being cohorted and further monitored. Recovery units are being identified and readied for residents.
- Regular family communication continues from Holyoke Soldiers' Home staff through video chat, using donated iPads, 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.

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- The Holyoke Soldiers' Home 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 to build capacity for resuming regular operations and moving to the recovery phase. Additionally, infection control staff is developing plans for dedicated recovery units.
- 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 total numbers at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home as of Tuesday May 26:**
  - 92 veteran resident deaths (76 positive, 15 negatives, 1 unknown)
    - Today's update includes the death of 2 veteran residents who had tested positive and were DNR and DNH. One veteran was onsite, and the second veteran was receiving care at Baystate Medical Center.
  - Testing results of all residents:
    - 75 veteran residents have tested positive
    - 57 veteran residents have tested negative
    - 0 veteran residents have pending tests
  - Resident locations:
    - 103 residents are onsite
    - 29 residents are offsite
      - 29 residents are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
      - 0 residents are receiving acute care offsite
  - 84 employees have tested positive

**Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update**

- Last week, 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 24 minute program is still available for viewing on the Home's [Facebook page](#).
  - The Soldiers' Home Virtual Memorial Day ceremony remains on the Soldiers' Home Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaSoldiersHome/>
  - The Soldiers' Home Veterans & staff created a Field of Flags which consisted of 84 flags (One for each Veteran who passed since last year's Memorial Day Service) in front of the Soldiers' Home Vietnam Memorial
  - On Memorial Day, the Massachusetts Red Cross organized a "Rolling Rally" which included approximately 20 cars and even a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter
  - Several Memorial Day themed cards and letters were received from children throughout the commonwealth addressed to Soldiers' Home Veterans & staff
  - The Soldiers' Home lit their main flagpole Gold on Sunday evening in honor of Gold Star Families throughout the Commonwealth, ahead of Memorial Day
- Several donations of supplies and food were donated by local companies, including:
  - Abbott Creamery donated a variety of frozen custards for Soldiers' Home staff. This was coordinated through *Feed the Fight Boston*.
  - On Sunday, Joyce & Tony Arrigo owners of Spectra Medical (located in Wilmington) donated 251 individually boxed meals from Spinelli's. The 251 meals allowed for all independent living Veterans and all staff to enjoy a delicious Italian meal. They also gifted beautiful floral

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arrangements for every Veteran (Both Long Term Care & Independent Living) and flowers for staff members.

- Steele Canvas, a Chelsea-based company donated 500 denim-flannel cloth masks.
- Chelsea Clinical Command continues to monitor and enforce staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE). 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. The Home continues to review its infection control and clinical operations with additional experts.
- Veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is being conducted for veterans both on- and off-site as clinically appropriate. As results are received, veteran residents are being cohoused and further monitored. Additional isolation space has been identified and is being readied.
- 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 total numbers at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home as of Tuesday May 26:**
  - 40 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 9 tested negative)
    - Today's update includes the death of 1 resident who tested negative and was receiving comfort measures only.
  - 36 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 177 veteran residents who have tested negative
  - 59 staff tested positive

## *Resources*

### **MA COVID-19 Test Site Locator**

MEMA, in coordination with the COVID-19 Command Center, has launched a [website](#) featuring an interactive map with information about COVID-19 test sites in Massachusetts, including contact information, address, hours of operation, website link, type of site, insurance coverage, and other important information. It also includes a downloadable full list of test sites.

### **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 at Boston Hope or Newton Pavilion by calling (617) 534-5050.

Individuals who do not live in Boston can access Isolation & Recovery Sites in Lexington, Everett, Taunton, Northampton, and Pittsfield by calling (617) 367-5150 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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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, 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.



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**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.

## ***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

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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.

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.