Wednesday, July 15, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

***Note:** Beginning Next Week the Command Center Situation Report will be published on a Tuesday/Thursday Schedule.*

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Public Health Data: Enhanced Weekly City & Town Report
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Situation Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- Stop the Spread
- 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 7/15

106,128 Total Confirmed Cases (click here for more information)

8,152 Deaths among confirmed cases

982,494 individuals tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States Last Updated 7/15

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:

3,416,428 Total Cases

135,991 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**:*
Today, more than **10,420** new molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with **142** newly reported confirmed positive cases. More than **1,250,000** molecular tests have been conducted to date.

***Hospitalizations & Capacity Update**:*
As of today, **580** people are hospitalized, with **80** reported to be in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Key indicators from today's Daily Dashboard are below.

Enhanced City & Town Data Included in New Weekly Public Health Data Report
The Command Center released the comprehensive COVID-19 Public Health Report today with enhanced data points for cities and towns, including new two-week data snapshots that provide more recent trend information for each community in the following categories.

City/Town	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Percent Change[2]	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)

DPH has also posted an archive of previously released city and town data dating back to April on the COVID-19 reporting page. The Weekly Public Health Report includes also includes data on recoveries, along with detailed case and death data related to long term care facilities. The report also includes information on nursing facility infection control audits and more. You can find all the data reports, raw data files, by visiting the **COVID-19 Response Reporting page**.

COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the July 15th Daily Dashboard is provided below:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Newly Reported Confirmed Cases Today	Total Confirmed Cases	Newly Reported Deaths among Confirmed Today	Total Deaths among Confirmed Cases
142	106,128	27	8,152

New Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests	Total Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests
10,424	982,494

Total Molecular Tests Administered
1,256,303

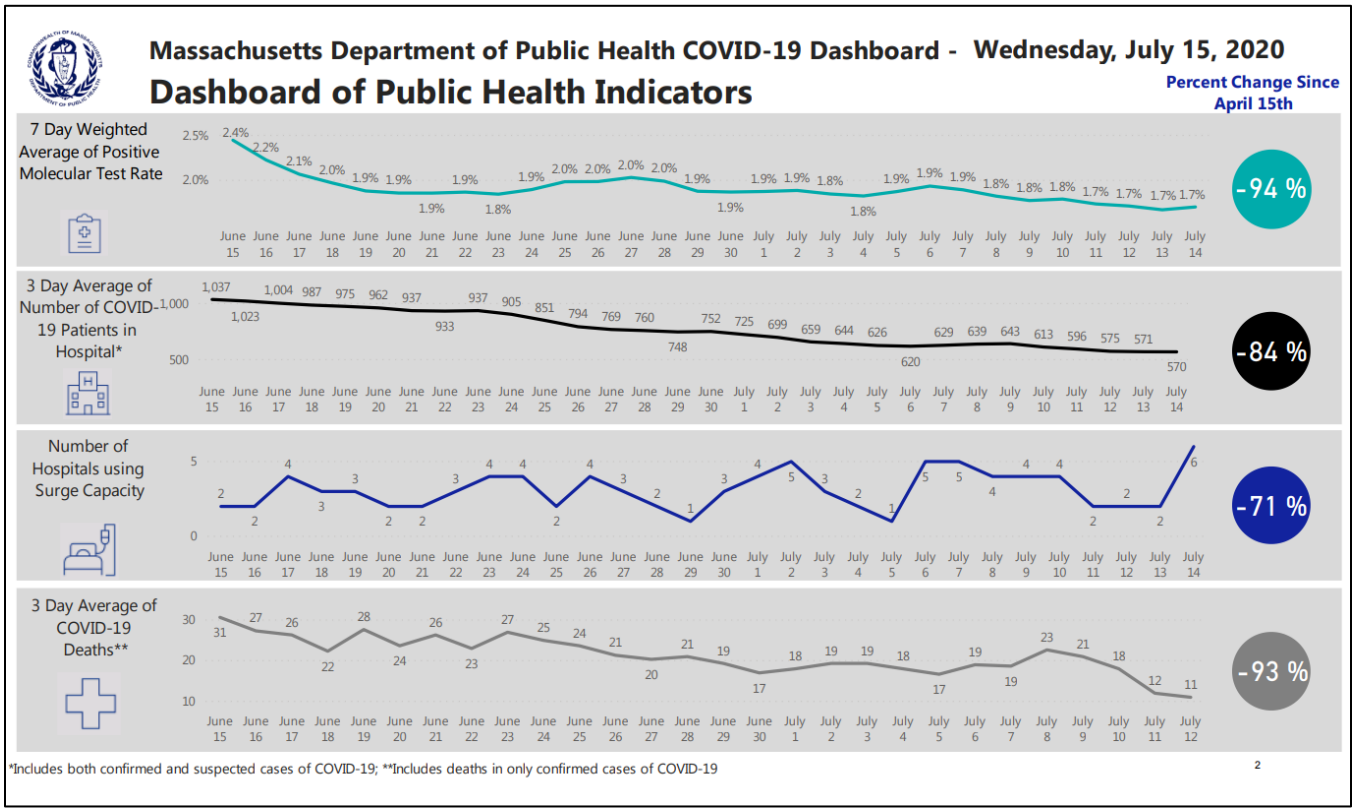
Legend
- Positive trend
- In progress
- Negative trend

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. Probable case and death information can be found on page 21. Antibody tests (individual and total numbers) can be found on page 7. For more information on the COVID-19 case definition, see https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2020ps/Interim-20-ID-01_COVID-19.pdf

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Important Updates

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 7/14)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	**23,733**
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	**369**
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	**5,282**

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 7/15 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,704
Staff	18,105
Total Tests	**29,809**
Number of Locations	**2,052**



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ICYMI: "Stop the Spread" Testing Sites Open in 8 Communities

Free COVID-19 testing sites are open in eight communities as part of the Baker-Polito Administration's "Stop the Spread" initiative. These sites will remain open until August 14 to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in communities that are above the state average in total cases and positive test rate, and have experienced a decline in testing levels since April. Residents of the communities of Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Marlborough, and New Bedford are urged to take advantage of the availability of these new testing sites, even if they are asymptomatic. While these sites were launched in these communities, they are open to all residents of the Commonwealth. Visit **mass.gov/stopthespread** to find out more.

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- Soldiers' Home Staff were retested for COVID-19 on Monday and Tuesday of this week as part of an every-other-week retesting plan.
- 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.
- At a Tuesday evening meeting of the Board of Trustees, Soldiers' Home leadership continued discussions about the Transition & Rebuilding Phase, including the Commonwealth's commitment to making the capital investments required to support significant facility upgrades to the Home, both for immediate infection control and other renovations and long-term improvements.
- Phase 1 of the refresh project, which involves updating the interiors of the 3rd floor units for enhanced infection control, 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 are offered outside with social distancing. Catholic Mass resumed on Saturday, July 11 under the Home's pavilion, limited to 10 residents, weather permitting.
- 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 15 is as follows:**
  - The current status of all residents:
    - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
    - 38 veterans are negative
    - 82 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
    - 25 veterans have a pending test result
    - 1 veteran has refused testing
  - Resident locations:
    - 119 veterans are onsite
    - 27 veterans are offsite
      - 26 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
      - 1 veteran are receiving acute care offsite
  - Since March 1, there have been 100 veteran deaths (76 deaths of veterans who tested positive, 20 veterans who tested negative, 1 veteran whose status was unknown, 3 veterans were clinically recovered)
    - Today's update includes the death of one veteran who was negative, and whose medical orders were do not resuscitate and do not transfer (DNR/DTR)
  - Employees at the Home have been retested and all are clinically recovered.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to welcome visitors for outdoor visitation between veterans and loved ones. 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 Soldiers' Home in Chelsea is reporting the recovery of residents based on clinical determinations following the retesting of all veterans, and 43 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered.

- The Home has eased restrictions for Dorm residents, who can now order food delivery from area restaurants, and drive in their personal vehicles off-site to medical appointments. The curfew has been extended, now from 11pm - 5am.
- 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 15 is as follows:**
    - Residents
        - 0 veteran resident is positive
        - 152 veteran residents have tested negative
        - 43 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:
        - Employees have been retested, and 4 total are positive
        - 60 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.

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

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• English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole	• Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Haitian Creole • Vietnamese

- 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 condition. Interested individuals can visit 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