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

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.

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.
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](http://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
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](http://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.
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

COVID-19 Public Health Data
Key data reflected in the July 6th Daily Dashboard is provided below:

The charts display various data points such as the number of newly reported confirmed cases, total confirmed cases, newly reported deaths among confirmed cases, total deaths among confirmed cases, new individuals tested by molecular tests, total individuals tested by molecular tests, and total molecular tests administered.

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.

*Includes both confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 **Includes deaths in only confirmed cases of COVID-19
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Onsite Testing: Long Term Care</th>
<th>Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes &amp; Care Sites (as of 7/6 by Fallon Ambulance Service)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Number of Tests Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (as of 6/15)</td>
<td>57,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 7/6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

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
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

- 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:
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

- 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.
**Stay Informed**

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit [https://www.mass.gov/covid19](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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview of COVID-19 Testing</th>
<th>Importance of COVID-19 Testing</th>
<th>How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong></td>
<td><strong>Portuguese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Portuguese</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Portuguese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Simplified Chinese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Simplified Chinese</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simplified Chinese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Traditional Chinese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Traditional Chinese</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional Chinese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vietnamese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vietnamese</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vietnamese</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haitian Creole</strong></td>
<td><strong>Haitian Creole</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **10 Tips for at home quarantine or self-monitoring**
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

• 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