

Monday, June 29, 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:

- Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries Resume Military Committal Services
- Funding Announced to Help Coworking Spaces Reopen & Operate Safely
- Public Health Data: Daily Dashboard Indicators
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Situation Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Mass.Gov/covid19](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](#)
- [FrontlineMA.org](#)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](#)
- [MBTA.com/covid19](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)
- [Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance](#)

Background on the Command Center

The COVID Command Center, under the leadership of Secretary Marylou Sudders and reporting to Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, is the Commonwealth's single point of strategic decision making and coordination for the Administration's comprehensive COVID-19 response.



Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts **current as of 6/29**

108,768 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

8,095 Deaths (See dashboard below for key daily public health indicators)

830,666 patients tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 6/29**

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:

2,545,250 Total Cases

126,369 Deaths

55 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, and US V.I.)

Social Distancing Basics:

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

If you go out for essential needs:

- ✓ Avoid crowds
- ✓ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ✓ Don't shake hands or hug
- ✓ Wear a face covering or mask if physical distancing is not possible.

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State Actions

Testing Update:

Yesterday (June 28th) 9,391 new molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with 224 newly reported confirmed positive. Over 1,050,000 molecular tests have been conducted to date.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

As of June 28th, 748 people have been hospitalized, with 134 in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). See today's daily Dashboard Indicators below.

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).

Beginning on March 17, 2020, Military Committal Services were temporarily paused to protect the health and safety of families of the deceased and those working at the cemeteries and performing the ceremonies during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

As the cemeteries prepare for the resumption of services, modifications will be made to ensure the safety of those present during the COVID-19 public health crisis. These modifications include:

- Limiting the service to ten family members or fewer
- Requiring face coverings be worn while in the Chapel; those without a mask will be provided one
- Spacing chairs six feet apart in the Chapel
- Disinfecting chairs, restrooms, doorknobs, and other high-touch areas between each service
- Placing markers on the ground to help direct the movement of individuals for social distancing
- Opening the entrance and exit doors to provide adequate ventilation
- Making alcohol-based hand sanitizers available at the entrance and exit of the Chapel

Employees, service members, and volunteers at both cemeteries will be required to maintain social distancing, and will be provided training on social distancing and hygiene protocol.

Family members and Funeral Homes will be provided detailed information on the procedures when they schedule Military Committal Services. Military Committal Services can be scheduled as usual by arranging the services through a Funeral Home, or by calling (413) 821-9500 for Agawam or (413) 821-9501 for Winchendon.

Grants Available to Help Collaborative Workspaces Reopen & Operate Safely

The Baker-Polito Administration and MassDevelopment are pleased to announce funding for the fifth round of the [Collaborative Workspace Program](#), a MassDevelopment program that accelerates business formation, job creation, and entrepreneurial activity in communities by supporting infrastructure that fuels locally based innovation.

Established coworking spaces may apply for grants of up to \$100,000 for new equipment or building improvements, including adjustments to help spaces adhere to the social distancing and health and safety standards outlined in the Commonwealth's sector-specific [COVID-19 Workplace Safety Standards](#). ([Find out more about the grants.](#))



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COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the June 29th Daily Dashboard is provided below:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Monday, June 29, 2020

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators



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	●

Legend

- Positive trend
- In progress
- Negative trend

Total Molecular Tests Administered	1,057,932
Newly Reported Cases Today	101
Newly Reported Deaths Today	35
New Individuals Tested by Antibody Tests	292
New Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests	6,481
Total Cases	108,768
Total Deaths	8,095
Total Individuals Tested by Antibody Tests	70,768
Total Individuals Tested by Molecular Tests	837,147

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Monday, June 29, 2020

Confirmed and Probable Case Breakdown



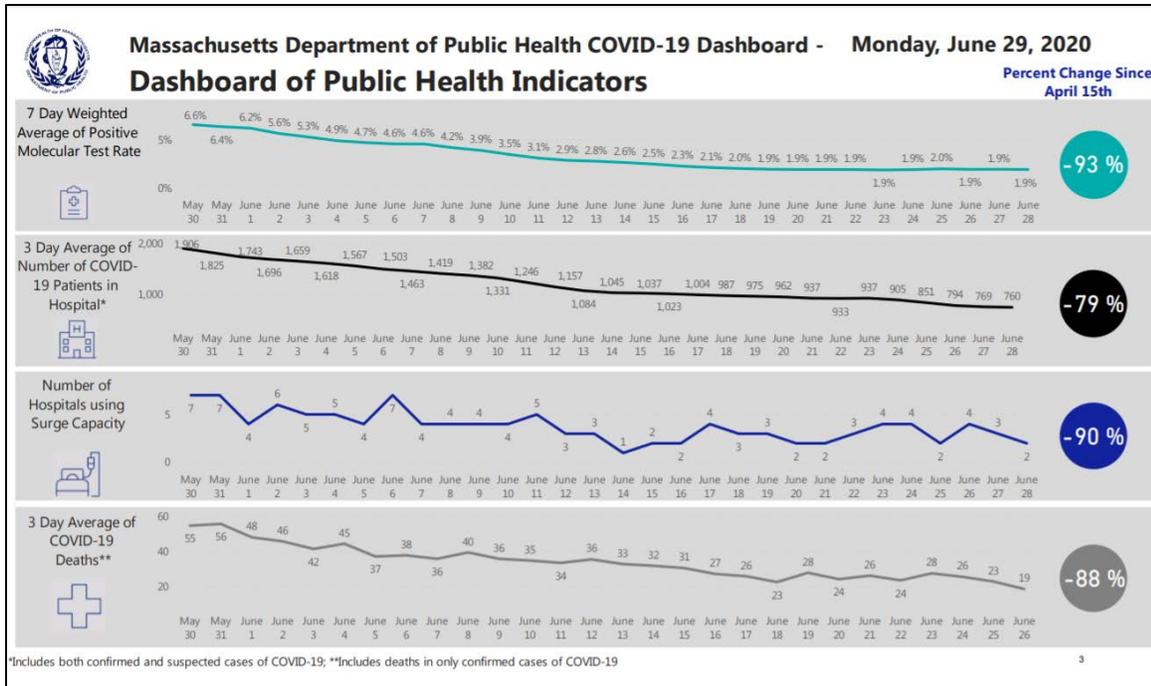
Confirmed		Probable	
Newly Reported Confirmed Cases Today	89	Newly Reported Probable Cases Today	12
Total Confirmed Cases	103,628	Total Probable Cases	5,140
Newly Reported Deaths among Confirmed Today	35	Newly Reported Deaths among Probable Today	0
Total Deaths among Confirmed Cases	7,895	Total Deaths among Probable Cases	200

Patients with a positive molecular test for COVID-19 are counted as confirmed.
 Patients with a positive serology/antibody test and either COVID-like symptoms or likely exposure to COVID-19 are counted as probable cases.
 Patients who did not have a laboratory test but whose death certificate listed COVID-19 as a cause of death are counted as probable deaths.
 Probable cases are included in all counts from March 1 onward.
 For more information on Confirmed and Probable case definitions, see https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2020ps/Interim-20-ID-01_COVID-19.pdf

Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, and the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics; Tables and Figures created by the Office of Population Health.
 Note: all data are current as of 10:00am.

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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 now available Monday-Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Onsite Testing

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 6/29)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	23,409
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	369
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	5,111

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 6/29 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,401
Staff	17,599
Total Tests	29,000
Number of Locations	1,992



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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



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Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- Last week, 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.
- 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.
- The Home is continuing recreational activities for Veterans, respecting social distancing, and veterans continue to go outside with nursing and recreation staff.
- The outpatient department at the Home is now outfitted with iPads to begin offering limited outpatient services to veterans in the domiciliary program through telehealth.
- 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 June 29 is as follows:**
 - The current status of all residents:
 - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 63 veterans are negative
 - 84 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 1 veteran has refused testing
 - Resident locations:

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- 120 veterans are onsite
- 28 veterans are offsite
 - 26 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 2 veterans are receiving acute care offsite
- Since March 1, there have been 98 veteran deaths (76 deaths of veterans who tested positive, 18 veterans who tested negative, 1 veteran whose status was unknown, 2 veterans were clinically recovered)
 - Today's update includes the death of 1 resident who was COVID-negative.
- Employees at the Home have been retested and all are clinically recovered.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home welcomed 10 visitors this weekend, and in total 71 visits between veterans and loved ones have been facilitated since the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea resumed 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 Soldiers' Home in Chelsea is reporting the recovery of residents based on clinical determinations following the retesting of all veterans, and 29 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 June 29 is as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 4 veteran residents are positive
 - 159 veteran residents have tested negative
 - 32 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)
 - Today's update includes the death of one resident who was COVID negative and receiving hospice care.
 - Employees:
 - Employees have been retested, 4 remain positive
 - 56 employees have been determined clinically recovered

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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**

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- 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](#)

- [Spanish](#)
- [Portuguese](#)

[Importance of COVID-19 Testing](#)

- [Spanish](#)
- [Portuguese](#)

[How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home](#)

- [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 \(:06\)](#)

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Spanish Radio Spots (available on request):

- Prevent the Spread of Germs
- Social Distancing
- Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.

How to Help Out

- [Donate](#) to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: [Please click here.](#)
- Get involved with the new Community Tracing Collaborative: [Please click here.](#)
- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: [Please click here.](#)
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here.](#)
- Apply for Jobs at COVID-19 Temporary Care Sites ([Details Here](#)).

The Need for Blood Donations Continues, and Recovered Covid-19 Donors Can Help Save Lives

In coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Red Cross is seeking people who are fully recovered from the new coronavirus to sign up to donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus. This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those judged by a healthcare provider to be at high risk of progression to severe or life-threatening condition. Interested individuals can visit [RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more, and if eligible, sign up to help. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued shelter in place declarations. The Red Cross follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need. To make an appointment to donate, please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org