

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (Linked in sidebar)
- Set-up of Field Medical Station Begins at DCU Center in Worcester
- CVS's Shrewsbury Testing Site Expands Testing to People 65+
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes

Resource Highlight: **10 Tips for At-Home Quarantine**



With more than 5,000 MA residents currently under some form of quarantine or self-monitoring, DPH has created a new flyer with 10 tips.

[\(Download & Share The Flyer\)](#)

Helpful Links:

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

Background on the Command Center:

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker declared a State of Emergency to support the Commonwealth's response to coronavirus.

On March 14, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the creation of a new COVID-19 Response Command Center. Secretary Marylou Sudders is leading the cross-secretariat response to the outbreak. The Command Center is the Commonwealth's single point of strategic decision making and coordination for the Administration's comprehensive COVID-19 response.

In support of the Command Center, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham has activated to Level 2 (Partial Activation). In addition, MEMA's Regional EOCs in Tewksbury, New Bedford, and Agawam have also been partially activated to support local communities.



Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts **current as of 4/1**
7,738 Total Cases ([click for more information](#))

122 Deaths

51,738 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **current as of 4/1**

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:

186,101 Total Cases

3,603 Deaths

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

Social Distancing Basics:

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

If you go out:

- ✓ Avoid crowds
- ✓ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ✓ Don't shake hands or hug

State Actions Today

At a 3:30 pm press conference, Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and MEMA Director Samantha Phillips provided the following updates and announcements: ([See video of today's briefing](#))

DCU Center in Worcester to Be Used as a Field Medical Station ([News Release](#))

To relieve pressure on the state's health care system and provide additional medical capacity, the Baker-Polito Administration today announced that a field medical station with more than 200 beds is scheduled to be set up at the DCU Center in Worcester starting today.

In anticipation of a surge in COVID-19 cases, the Commonwealth, through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, requested and received approval for the temporary field medical station, which will be used to treat lower acuity care needs.

The DCU facility will be the first of three temporary field medical stations the Commonwealth is working to set up after requesting and receiving approval from the federal Strategic National Stockpile. The Commonwealth is actively identifying other sites and partners for the two other facilities.

UMass Memorial Medical Center will manage the facility, which will be staffed by a partnership including the City of Worcester, UMass Memorial, and others. UMass Memorial will lead the day-to-day running of the facility with support by state and local partners upon set-up.

Medical stations, like the one being deployed to Worcester, are required to set up in facilities of at least 40,000 square feet to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and include beds, supplies, and a cache of medicine for basic care.

Logistics for this field medical station will be coordinated between the City, UMass Memorial Health Care, and state and local agencies.

CVS Shrewsbury, MA COVID-19 Testing Site

The drive-thru COVID-19 testing site in Shrewsbury for symptomatic first responders, health care professionals, and individuals aged 65 and over (by clinical referral and appointment) was operational again as of 9:30 a.m. this morning. This testing site is supported by a call center staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week.

Help Out

- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: [Please click here.](#)
- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: [Please click here.](#)
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here.](#)

Ongoing Blood Product Shortage

As you are aware, the COVID-19 virus has caused the cancellation of blood drives across the Commonwealth. There is an urgent need ***now*** for patients with chronic conditions and trauma, as well as ensuring an adequate blood and blood product supply ***going forward***. The Governor has deemed "Blood and plasma donors and the employees of the organizations that operate and manage related activities" as an essential service. Your support is needed to communicate to your residents that the need is urgent, and donating is a necessity to supply the

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DAILY SITUATION REPORT

hospitals with the blood our neighbors require. Donating blood is safe and people should not hesitate to give. In addition, there is a need for community blood drive sites in the eastern part of the state. Identifying donation sites is vital to meet the demand as we go forward. Your local knowledge, suggestions of sites, and potential partners are crucial to meeting the needs of our neighbors who need blood and blood products. To schedule a new blood drive contact Bill Forsyth at (617) 699-3808 or at email William.Forsyth@redcross.org.

Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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
- Take care of your emotional health and help others do the same. If you need emotional support during these stressful times:
 - 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.

Communications Resources:

- DPH Flyer/Infographic on [reducing stress & coping](#) with fear of COVID-19
- DMH resources on [maintaining Emotional Health & Well-Being](#)
- Social Distancing ([youth](#) and [general](#)) infographic released on website.
- Social Distancing messages are now on billboards and will soon be available on public transit. They are also now translated into multiple languages.
- MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) [visual tool](#) for communicating with hard of hearing and Deaf individuals.
- Find and share printable flyers on prevention measures and social distancing on the Department of Public Health’s website. Flyers available in multiple languages. Find the flyers by [clicking here](#).

COVID-2019 infographic for posting in all public places: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/stop-the-spread-of-germs-respiratory-diseases-like-flu-and-covid-19/download>

Social media – follow and retweet DPH on Twitter @MassDPH, updated several times per day.

Update on Holyoke & Chelsea Soldiers' Home ([News Release](#))

Today, Governor Baker announced that the Governor's Office has hired [Attorney Mark W. Pearlstein](#) to conduct an independent investigation of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and the events that led to the recent tragic deaths from COVID-19 within that facility. The investigation will focus both on the events inside the facility that led to the deaths of veterans in the Holyoke Soldiers' Home, and on management and organizational oversight of the COVID-19 response in the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

On Sunday evening, 3/29, when administration officials were alerted about the extent of the outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home, immediate actions were initiated. In addition to instituting a leadership change at the facility, a rapid response team including the Superintendent of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, senior clinical staff from EOHHS/MassHealth and Commonwealth Medicine was immediately sent to the Home as part of a clinical response.

The National Guard has been on site since Monday to augment the staff, and the Command Center's mobile nursing home COVID 19 testing team has tested all residents and is testing all staff. **Val Liptak, the CEO of Western Mass Hospital** has assumed responsibility for the operation of the Home. To date, there have been 15 veteran resident deaths (6 positive tests, 6 pending, 2 negatives, and 1 unknown). Additionally, 11 residents and 7 staff have tested positive.

A hotline has been established for family members, and is available Mon. – Friday, 8am – 6pm, and Saturdays from 9am – 1pm. **The Family Hotline can be reached by calling 413-552-4764.**

Also, today it was announced that a veteran resident of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home who tested positive for COVID-19 has died, bringing the total COVID-19 related deaths at that facility to 2. An additional 4 residents have been tested for the illness, with 2 testing positive, 1 negative and 1 pending result. As of today, a total of 5 staff have been tested, with 2 testing positive, 1 negative and 2 test results pending. COVID-19 cases in the Chelsea Soldiers' Home are being isolated, cared for, and tracked daily. Rapid action is being taken to mitigate the impact of the virus on residents and staff.

The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has paid strict adherence to cleaning and infection control protocols of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health to maintain a clean and safe environment. The Chelsea Soldiers' Home followed appropriate reporting and clinical protocols for a COVID-19 incident and will continue to prioritize veteran residents' and staff health and safety during this outbreak.

A weekly telephone conference for elected officials is being scheduled starting this week.