

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (link in sidebar)
- Governor Baker Provides Daily Update
- Mask/Face Covering Order Takes Effect
- Operation: American Resolve
- Milk Distribution Site
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- [Get Involved: Community Contact Tracing Collaborative](#)
- [Jobs Available to Assist Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- [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 5/06**

72,025 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

4,420 Deaths

339,639 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **current as of 5/06**

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:

1,193,813 Total Cases

70,802 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

Governor Baker Addresses State Police Swearing In

Today, Governor Charlie Baker attended and delivered remarks at the swearing in ceremony for the 85th Recruit Training Troop of the Massachusetts State Police.

The 240 Trainees of the Massachusetts State Police 85th Recruit Training Troop were sworn-in as MSP Troopers this afternoon by Governor Charles Baker and Colonel Christopher Mason on the Gillette Stadium field.

“Every class to come out of the State Police Academy can take pride in an incredible accomplishment,” Governor Baker said in his address to the new Troopers. “But you’ve become State Troopers under truly exceptional circumstances, overcoming obstacles that no other class has had to.

“And despite all of the challenges during those 16 weeks of accelerated training, despite all that was happening in your families and communities, this class is the largest to come out of the Academy in more than 25 years – an incredible testament to the commitment you made to serve and protect the people of Massachusetts,” Governor Baker continued. ([See the MSP News Release](#))

Following the ceremony, the Governor provided his daily update on testing, hospitalizations, and PPE distribution, gave an update on the Face Mask Order effective today, and answered questions from the media. A video stream is available [here](#).

In addition to the [Daily Dashboard](#), DPH also posted its [weekly case update for cities and towns](#).

Face Covering Order Takes Effect Today

Effective today, Governor Baker issued an order requiring individuals to wear face coverings in public places. Further guidance has been issued by the Department of Public Health pursuant to that Order to further clarify who is required to wear face coverings or masks and any exceptions.

Any person who is in a place open to the public in the Commonwealth, when unable to maintain a distance of approximately six feet from every other person, shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face covering. This order applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition.



Face coverings are required at all times when:

- Inside or waiting in line outside of grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retail stores;
- Providing or using the services of any taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing, or similar service;
- On any form of public transit, including train or bus; and
- In an enclosed or semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area.

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The use of a face covering does not replace important social distancing measures. All individuals must continue to maintain more than 6 feet of distance from other people; **wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**; and stay home when sick.

Children under the age of 2 years should not wear face coverings or masks. For children 2 years of age and older, a mask or face covering should be used, if possible. Mask use by children 2 years of age and up to the age of five is encouraged but should be at the discretion of the child's parent or guardian. Parents and guardians should ensure that the mask fits snugly and does not obstruct a child's ability to breathe.

The fit of face coverings should be as follows:

- Fit securely and comfortably against the side of the face;
- Be secured with ties or ear loops;
- Allow for breathing without restriction; and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change of shape.

Exceptions for wearing face coverings include situations that may inhibit an individual from wearing a face-mask safely. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Those who cannot breathe safely;
- Those who, due to a behavioral health diagnosis, are unable to do so;
- Those communicating with people who rely upon lip-reading;
- Those who require supplemental oxygen to breathe; and
- Those who are exercising outdoors and are able to keep physical distance from others.

Masks and face coverings should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use. When possible, masks should be washed in a washing machine. If a washing machine is unavailable, masks should be washed with soap and water and allow drying fully before using again.

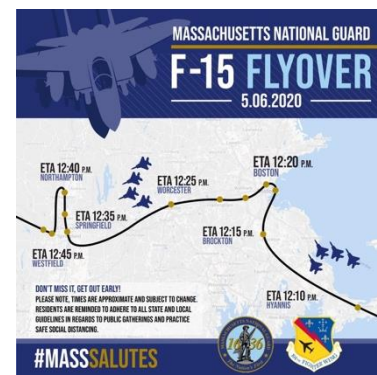
Per COVID-19 order No. 31, violations of the masking order shall be punished in the following manner:

- The first offense shall result in a warning.
- The second or subsequent offense may result in a civil citation and a fine of up to \$300.

For information on how to make your own masks please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>

Operation: American Resolve

F-15 Eagles from the 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield, Massachusetts, flew over several area hospitals in a show of support for medical workers serving on the frontlines in the combat against COVID-19. Today's flyover also coincided with [#NationalNursesDay](#). Air Force Salutes flyovers are a way for the U.S. Air Force to show appreciation to the thousands of heroes on the frontlines and all our brave Massachusetts neighbors battling and supporting the COVID-19 response. This is a part of Operation American Resolve, a nationwide salute to those supporting COVID-19 response efforts.



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Milk Distribution Site

Dairy Farmers of America is donating 8,600 gallons of milk to Boston-area residents on Thursday, May 7th. A Point of Distribution (POD) site will be stood up at **Boston College High School from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** or until the supply of milk runs out. Up to 2 gallons of milk will be placed in residents' trunks as they proceed through the distribution site. Those without vehicles may line up along Morrissey Blvd. at the school entrance and await directions by the National Guard. All participants arriving at the site must be wearing a face covering during their visit.

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

The Mobile Testing Program can test both symptomatic and asymptomatic residents and staff at nursing homes, rest homes, Assisted Living Residences, and EOHHS group homes and care sites. The program was launched by the Command Center on 3/31 and operates under the auspices of the Massachusetts National Guard, in partnership with the Department of Public Health, Fallon Ambulance, and Broad Institute of Cambridge. See a summary below of testing activity.

Onsite Testing

Date	Number of Tests Completed	Facilities Visited
5/6	1,565	21
Total (as of 5/6)	33,416	589

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 5/6)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	14,680
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	331
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	2,653

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

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	7452
Staff	10748
Total Tests	18,200
Number of Locations	1197



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

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



Other Important Updates

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- Today, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home is celebrating National Nurses Day, thanking its nursing staff for their vital work to support and care for veteran residents.
- Brighton Marine, a non-profit organization that supports Veterans and their families throughout Massachusetts, will donate approximately 180 iPads for veterans to connect with families.
- Today, the Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee members are visiting the Holyoke Soldiers' Home, respecting social distancing, including Senator Timilty and Rep Campbell.
- As part of Operation American Resolve, the 104th Fighter Wing will fly over Massachusetts in show of support during COVID-19 pandemic as an Air Force Salute to show appreciation to the heroes on the

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frontlines and Massachusetts neighbors battling and supporting the COVID-19 response. The flyover will happen over the Home at 12:35 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

- As veteran residents are being cared for, their status and symptoms are being closely monitored and they are being retested as appropriate. As results are returned, residents are being cohorted appropriately.
- 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.
- Regular family communication continues from Holyoke Soldiers' Home staff through video chat, 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.
- **The total numbers at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home as of Wednesday May 6:**
 - 85 veteran resident deaths (72 positive, 12 negatives, 1 unknown)
 - Today's update includes one death of a resident who was DNR, DNH and had tested positive
 - Testing results of all residents
 - 79 veteran residents have tested positive
 - 59 veteran residents have tested negative
 - 2 veteran residents have pending tests
 - Resident locations:
 - 106 residents are onsite
 - 34 residents are offsite
 - 32 residents are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 2 residents are receiving acute care offsite
 - 83 employees have tested positive

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- Today the Chelsea Soldiers' Home will be able to view the F-15 Flyover that the 104th Fighter Wing will do over Massachusetts through Operation American Resolve, an Air Force Salute to show appreciation to the heroes on the frontlines and Massachusetts neighbors battling and supporting the COVID-19 response. Chelsea will be watching the flyover from its position atop Powder Horn Hill in Chelsea.
- This week, the Chelsea Soldiers' Home is reintroducing recreation activities that respect social distancing and support residents' mental and emotional health during this challenging time. This will include socially distanced group activities to cope with the impact of the virus, as well as mindfulness, living well, and coping with other concerns.
- Veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is being conducted for veterans on- and off-site as appropriate. As results are received, veteran residents are being cohorted and further monitored. Additional isolation space has been identified and is being readied if needed.
- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has reviewed its infection control and clinical operations with additional experts. Staff have been provided PPE core competency training, the entire facility is rounded on daily

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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, monitoring and enforcing staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and closely monitoring staff levels, supplementing as necessary with support from contracted staff.
- Veteran residents are communicating with their families and loved ones via video with support from the Chelsea Soldiers' Home Social Work team. Families can request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at CSH@mass.gov and through phone and video conversations. Please note the Soldiers' Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file.
- 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 Wednesday May 6:**
 - 35 veteran resident deaths (28 tested positive, 7 tested negative)
 - 29 veteran residents who have tested positive
 - 188 veteran residents who have tested negative
 - 54 staff tested positive

COVID-19 Public Health Data

The Department of Public Health has made available the underlying data files the Department uses each day to produce the COVID-19 Dashboard, as part of a continued effort to expand the amount and type of data released to the public. The data files are updated and posted daily (**by 4pm**) with the dashboard report for the public, researchers, and media to 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:

Newly Reported Cases Today 1,754	Confirmed Cases 72,025	Newly Reported Deaths Today 208	Deaths of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases 4,420
Percent of All Cases Currently Hospitalized 5%	Count of Cases Currently in ICU 922	New Tests Reported Today 6,290	Total Tests Performed 339,639

Resources

COVID-19 Testing

Looking for a COVID-19 test site? The Department of Public Health (DPH) has posted to their COVID-19 website information on testing and mobile testing site locations ([available here](#)). This information is updated twice weekly.

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Homeless COVID-19 Isolation Sites

The Commonwealth's COVID-19 Command Center and MEMA have stood up regional isolation and recovery sites located in hotels across the state ([click here for more information](#)). Currently there are sites in Lexington, Pittsfield, Taunton, Northampton, and Everett. These locations are for individuals who:

- Are homeless (people who normally sleep at a shelter, on the street, for whom home is unsafe due to violence, or who do not have a permanent address) AND
- Who are COVID-19 positive OR have a medical provider's note recommending isolation and can safely isolate without medical supervision.

These sites are for individuals who have mild or moderate symptoms and do not need hospital level of care or nursing facility level of care. Medical treatment is not provided on site. As noted above, individuals must have a positive COVID-19 test or must have been seen by a medical provider and directed to isolate for them to be accepted. These locations cannot support individuals who need assistance with Activities of Daily Living or who need the level of care provided at a Skilled Nursing Facility.

For shelter providers located outside Boston, please call 617-367-5150 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The intake coordinator will determine eligibility, register an individual for the program, and have the guest placed and transported to the nearest Isolation and Recovery location that has availability.

For shelter providers located in Boston please call 617-534-5050 to access sites in Boston.

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

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.](#)

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- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here](#).
- Apply for Jobs at COVID-19 Temporary Care Sites ([Details Here](#)).

Give Blood:

The COVID-19 virus has caused the cancellation of blood drives across the Commonwealth. There is an urgent need **now**. 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 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).

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.