

Monday, June 15, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

Note: Beginning today, the Command Center Situation Report will be published on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday Schedule.

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Governor Baker Provides Daily Update
- Pop-Up Testing Sites for Participants of Large Gatherings
- Public Health Data: Dashboard Indicators
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Jobs Available to Assist Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Get Involved: Community Contact Tracing Collaborative](#)
- [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 6/15

105,690 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

7,647 Deaths (See dashboard below for key daily public health indicators)

712,875 patients tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States Last Updated 6/15

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:

2,085,769 Total Cases

115,644 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

Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders to provide an update on Coronavirus and announce a new testing initiative. ([See video here](#)).

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Pop-Up Testing Sites for Participants of Large Gatherings

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the availability of pop-up COVID-19 testing sites throughout the Commonwealth for individuals who have recently participated in large gatherings. These free testing sites will be available at over 50 sites throughout the Commonwealth on Wednesday, June 17th and Thursday, June 18th. The Administration is urging anyone who has attended a large gathering in the past two weeks to get tested for COVID-19 at one of these sites. Test results will be provided to each participant confidentially, and participants are encouraged to share these results with their doctors.

A full list of all testing sites is available at www.mass.gov/gettested.

The screenshot shows the Massachusetts state government website (Mass.gov) with a search bar and navigation links for various state departments. A specific page titled "Get Tested for COVID-19: June 17th and 18th" is displayed. The page includes a banner with the text "HAVE YOU ATTENDED A LARGE GATHERING? GET TESTED AT NO COST TO YOU" and "WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17TH THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH OVER 50 SITES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH MASS.GOV/GETTESTED". Below the banner, there is a section titled "COVID-19 can spread easily and quickly in large groups of people who are in close contact. Some people do not have symptoms but may have the virus and could spread the virus to others. If you participated in a large gathering, you should get tested." It also mentions that testing is available at over 50 sites across the state. A table of contents is visible on the right side of the page.



Social distancing, wearing face coverings, the frequent use of disinfectant and handwashing have been important to the Commonwealth's efforts to decrease the number and rate of newly confirmed positive cases. COVID-19 can spread easily and quickly in large groups of people who are in close contact. Some people do not have symptoms but may have the virus and could spread the virus to others, including family members.

The Administration has worked with partners across the Commonwealth to provide these sites including Baystate Health, Berkshire Medical Center, Beth Israel Lahey Health, Brockton Community Health Center, Brookside Community Health Center, Cambridge Health Alliance, Community Health Connections, CVS, Fairview Hospital, Lawrence General Hospital, Lynn Community Health Center, Massachusetts General Hospital Chelsea, Outer Cape Health Services, Manet Community Health Center, and UMass Medical Center.

To date, Massachusetts has tested more than 700,000 people for COVID-19. On average, 10,000 individuals are tested each day, comprising 4.4% of the state's population each month. The state currently has capacity at 45 labs to perform up to 30,000 COVID-19 tests per day, and its nursing home testing strategies have been replicated by states across the country.

The Administration continues to prioritize expanding access to testing, with a key focus of that strategy being ensuring access to testing in skilled nursing facilities, rest homes, and assisted living residences and other 24/7 staffed congregate care settings. On May 30, 2020, the Administration filed its required federal plan to expand COVID-19 testing under the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act of 2020. Massachusetts has received \$374 million in federal funding from the Act.

This funding will help the Commonwealth implement a comprehensive testing strategy that includes:

- Increasing lab testing capacity to 45,000 by the end of July;

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- Goal of reducing and maintaining a positive test rate to less than 5 percent;
- Ensuring on-demand access to testing for all symptomatic individuals and their close contacts;
- Increasing access to testing for vulnerable and high-risk populations;
- Building a testing infrastructure to support a potential second surge;
- Modernizing public technology infrastructure to provide real-time data on cases and testing; and
- Operating a best-in-class contact tracing program.

Testing Update:

Yesterday (June 14th) over 9,000 new tests were reported in Massachusetts with approximately 500 confirmed positive. Around 700,000 individuals have been tested to date.

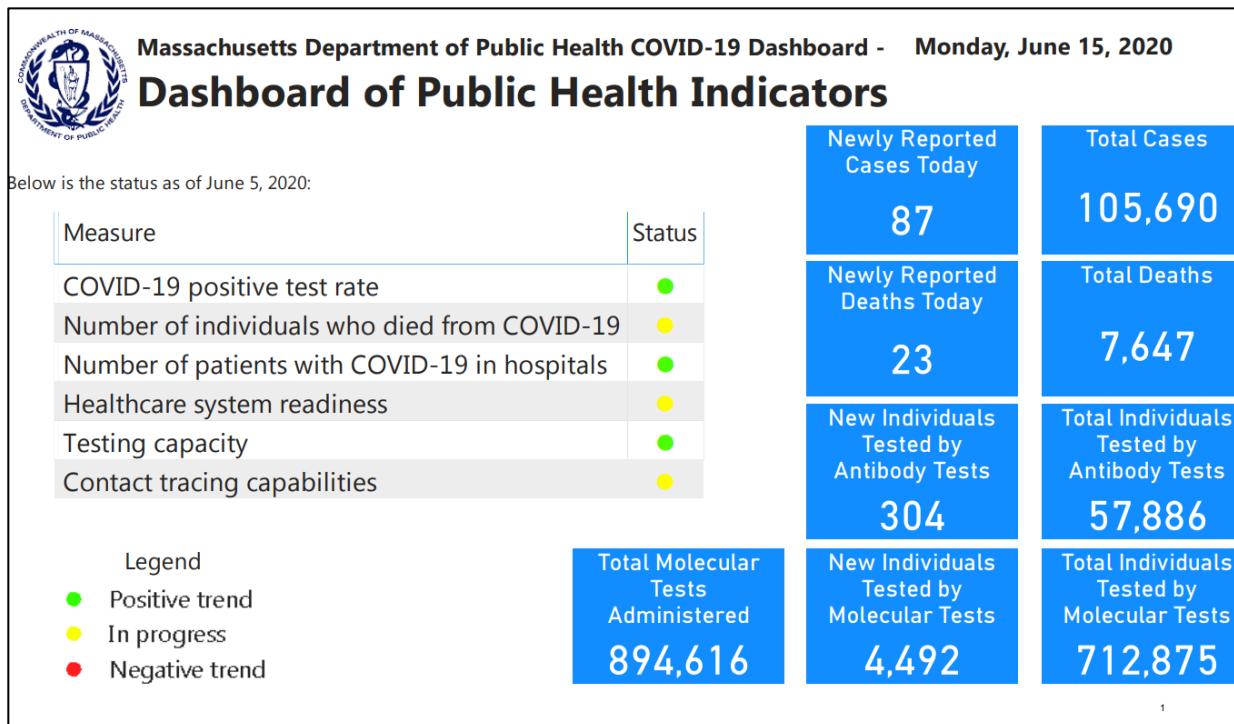
- The average positive test rate declined to **3%** which, represents an 90% reduction in positive cases since 4/15.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

- As of June 14th, 1,000 people have been hospitalized, a decline of 70% since mid-April.

COVID-19 Public Health Data

Key data reflected in the June 15th Daily Dashboard is provided below: Secretary Sudders announced today that the Command Center will begin providing a new data point in the Daily Dashboard regarding ***the total number of molecular (viral) tests administered***. This will provide additional insight on testing to go along with the established reporting on ***the daily and total number of individuals tested*** during the pandemic.



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Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Monday, June 15, 2020

Confirmed and Probable Case Breakdown

Confirmed

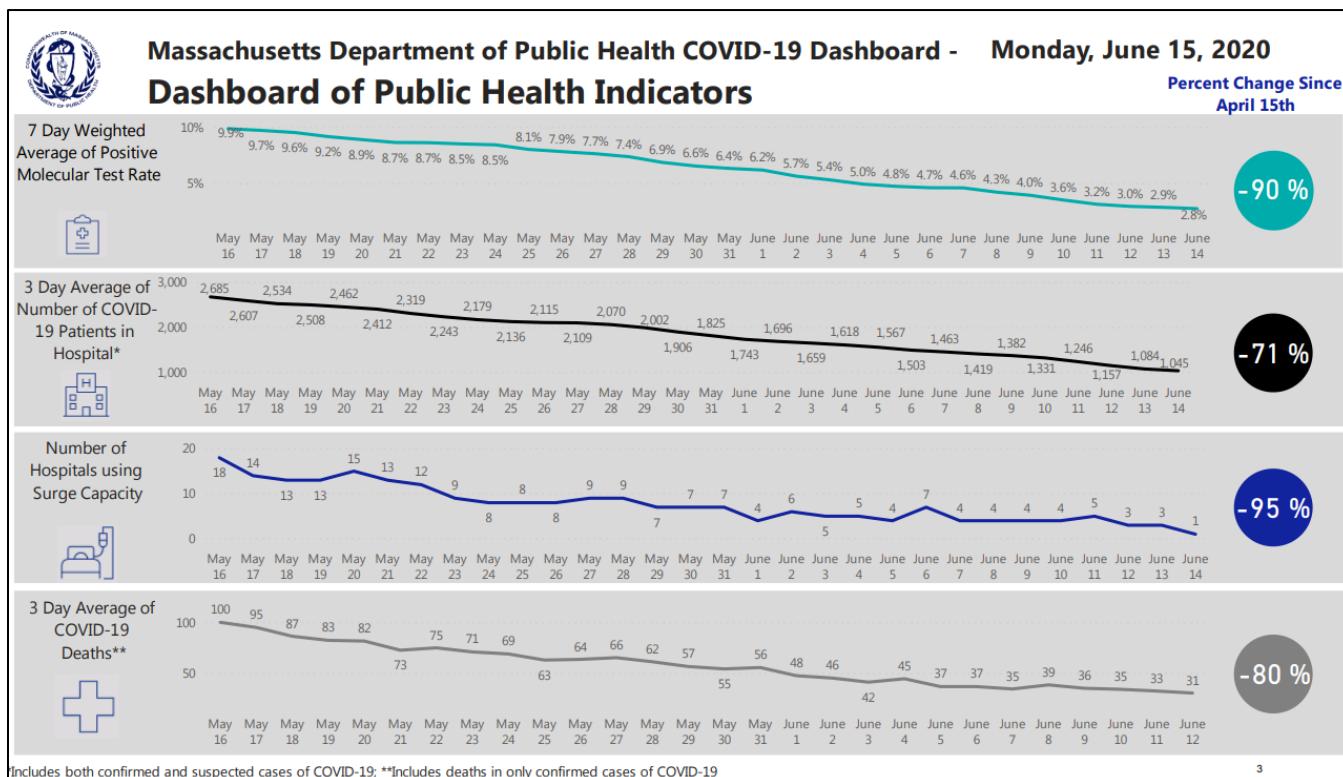
Newly Reported Confirmed Cases Today 58	Total Confirmed Cases 101,334
Newly Reported Deaths among Confirmed Today 23	Total Deaths among Confirmed Cases 7,490

Probable

Newly Reported Probable Cases Today 29	Total Probable Cases 4,356
Newly Reported Deaths among Probable Today 0	Total Deaths among Probable Cases 157

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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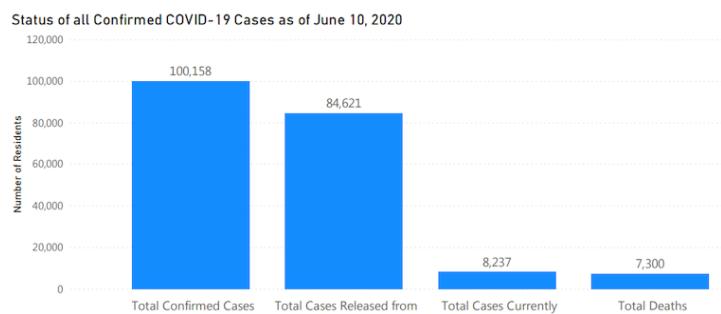
Weekly Public Health Data Report

The Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report, which is released on Wednesdays, includes town-by-town case and testing information, along with detailed case and death data related to long term care facilities. The report also includes information on nursing facility audits and more. You can find all the data reports by visiting the [COVID-19 Response Reporting page](#). ([Find the Data Files Here](#)).

Data on Recoveries

Also in the Weekly Report are data on the number of individuals deemed to have recovered from COVID-19.

Residents who had a confirmed case of COVID-19, and are no longer in isolation, are considered for purposes of this report to be recovered. As part of this definition, DPH is counting people as released from isolation after 21 days of illness or 21 days past the date of their test in all settings including nursing homes and state facilities. You can find data on those who have recovered from COVID-19 on [page 22 of the report](#).



Important Updates

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

Note: The hours of operation for the Nursing Home/Long Term Care Family Resource Line have changed. **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
6/15	653	8
Total (as of 6/15)	57,058	493

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 6/15)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	22,795
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	366
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	4,817

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 6/15 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	12,460
Staff	18,209
Total Tests	30,699
Number of Locations	2,020



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

CALL US MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FROM 9AM-5PM



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Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is preparing for the first outdoor visits tomorrow, Tuesday, June 16. In preparation for resuming limited visitation, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke retested all Veteran residents and staff. The Veteran resident results returned were largely negative - with only 8 remaining positive - a marked improvement and a promising sign of recovery.
 - The Soldiers' Home is following [visitation guidance](#), and is developing 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 will be in addition to continued video visits for regular family communication 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 Home continues its work to resume recreational activities for Veterans, and veterans continue to go outside today with nursing and recreation staff.
- Soldiers' Home leadership is moving into the Transition & Rebuilding Phase that is focused on rebuilding the organic staff leadership and team and positioning the facility to move forward safely.
- 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 staff. 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.
- 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.
- **Veteran residents have been retested, and the results as of June 15 are as follows:**
 - Retesting results of all residents:
 - 8 veteran residents are positive (across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center), and 2 results were inconclusive and are being treated as positive
 - 127 veteran residents have tested negative
 - Resident locations:
 - 122 residents are onsite
 - 29 residents are offsite
 - 27 residents are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 2 residents are receiving acute care offsite
 - 95 veteran resident deaths (76 positive, 17 negative, 1 unknown, 1 recovered)

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- Today's update includes the death of 1 veteran resident who had recovered from COVID-19, and whose medical orders were do not resuscitate and do not hospitalize (DNR/DNH).
- Employees at the Home have been retested. There are only 2 positives remaining, and 4 inconclusive results, who will be retested.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- Today, the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea is resuming outdoor visitation. The Soldiers' Home is following [visitation guidance](#), and has developed outdoor visitation protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. While visitation begins today, 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 will occur 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.
- As infection control remains a focus of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, the Chelsea Clinical Command continues to monitor and enforce staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as source new PPE, and over the past week has received shipments of gowns, masks, and hand sanitizer. We are also continuing to coordinate closely with the VA Health Care System.
- 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 results of retesting as of June 15 are as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 6 veteran residents who have tested positive
 - 208 veteran residents who have tested negative
 - 41 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 10 tested negative)
 - Employees:
 - 36 employees tested positive

Resources

COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Sites

The Commonwealth's COVID-19 Command Center and MEMA have stood up regional isolation and recovery sites located in hotels across the state. Providers or individuals from Boston can access isolation sites by calling (617) 534-5050. Individuals who do not live in Boston can access Isolation & Recovery Sites in Everett, Taunton, and Northampton by calling (617) 367-5150 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

More information, to include clinical and financial eligibility, can be found [here](#).

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

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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](#)

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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](#).
- 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.

We are also encouraging people who have not had COVID-19 to schedule and keep appointments to donate blood or platelets to ensure a stable blood supply during this pandemic. Donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. 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](#)

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

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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.