Thursday, April 2, 2020
COVID-19 Command Center
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update Includes New Data on Positive Cases in Long Term Care Facilities (Link in sidebar)
- COVID-19 Surge Planning & Updates From The Command Center
- Added Steps to Encourage Social Distancing at State Parks and Beaches
- Emergency Child Care Update
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes

Today: NE Patriots' Plane Lands at Logan With Nearly a Million Masks for Frontline COVID-19 Responders in MA (Remarks From Logan)

"Thank you again to everyone for their role, their determination, their perseverance, and creativity to make this very important delivery happen for the people of Massachusetts." ***- Governor Charlie Baker***

Helpful Links:

- Mass.Gov/covid19
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Unemployment & COVID-19
- Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal
- Emergency Childcare Site
- MBTA.com/covid19
- COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance
- **Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance**

Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts current as of 4/2

8,966 Total Cases (click for more information)

154 Deaths

56,608 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States current as of 4/2

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:

213,144 Total Cases

4,513 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

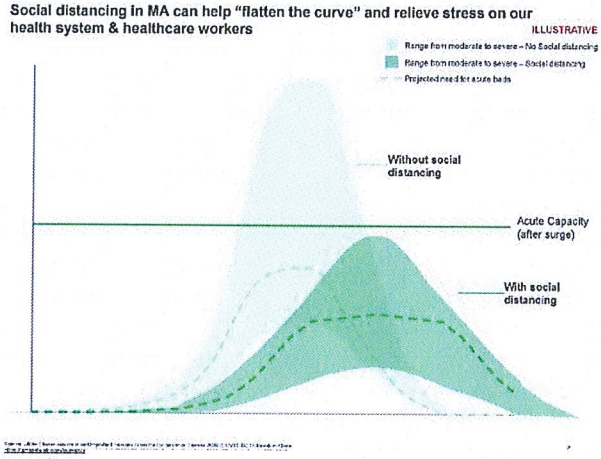
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

State Actions Today

At a 1:00 pm press conference, Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and Secretary Sudders provided the following updates and announcements: (**See video of today's briefing**)

COVID-19 Surge Planning (News Release)
The Baker-Polito Administration's COVID-19 Response Command Center today outlined projections related to the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth. The projections are the result of the Command Center's work with medical experts to complete modeling of the outbreak in Massachusetts. The Administration also detailed its efforts to respond to this surge, including a significant increase in hospital capacity, staffing, and equipment.

Modeling and Projections
The Administration's COVID-19 Response Command Center has been working with its **Advisory Board of medical experts** and epidemiologists from Harvard University, University of Guelph, and Northeastern University to refine models related to the expected surge of COVID-19 cases. These efforts include modeling the surge's timing, number of cases, necessary bed capacity, and work to find facilities that will meet overfill capacity. The model's projections are based on the experience of Wuhan, China, but Massachusetts' trajectory could differ due to lower population density, lower smoking rates, and earlier social distancing measures. The Command Center has also been comparing experiences in other states and around the world.



(*Click Here To Download Chart*)

The model's latest projections estimate that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts could range from 47,000 to 172,000 (or 0.7% to 2.5% of the total population of Massachusetts). The models show hospitalizations would potentially peak between April 10-20. The current fatality rate in Massachusetts is lower than other areas – it is approximately 1.5% of those infected. The Command Center is monitoring this statistic closely.

The COVID-19 Response Command Center is working with hospitals to provide them with flexibility to expand ICU capacity. The Commonwealth is asking academic medical centers and teaching hospitals to work to significantly expand their capacity. Still, after hospitals execute on their surge plans, the model estimates there could be a remaining gap in ICU capacity of more than 500 beds.

Response Efforts
The Administration is aiming to find or build an additional 750 - 1000 beds in field medical hospitals and other alternate care sites to reduce strain on hospitals as much as possible. Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito **visited the first of these Field Medical Stations** at the DCU Center in Worcester yesterday.

The Administration has identified additional possible sites for Field Medical Stations including the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Joint Base Cape Cod, Springfield's Mass Mutual Building and other smaller locations. The Administration has secured a contractor who can build out sites once a healthcare partner has been finalized.

The Command Center is also securing 1000 beds for additional capacity for **step-down care options in nursing facilities** for stabilized COVID-19 positive patients who can be transferred out of the hospital to make room for those with higher medical need.

Update on Nursing Home Testing Pilot Program

At today's briefing, Secretary Sudders provided an update on the recently announced Nursing Home Testing Pilot Program.

- The Commonwealth implemented a pilot project that allows for safe, on-site testing of symptomatic residents of nursing and rest homes with a quick turnaround.
- The pilot is operating under the auspices of the Massachusetts National Guard in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Broad Institute of Cambridge, and samples will be collected by trained personnel from the Massachusetts National Guard.
- Prior to this launch of this program, the only way for nursing home residents to be tested would be to be transported to a hospital or physician's office.
- Launched earlier this week, the program is ramping up to full force, with 16 members of the MA National Guard deployed, with an additional 45 added to the team in the next couple of days.
- A call center has been established to provide as a single point of contact for nursing and rest homes seeking help with testing.
- As of Thursday morning, the program has tested 280 individuals and with a plan to reach more people in the coming days.
- New guidance is being issued instructing facilities with onsite medical staff to swab their own residents, with the National Guard providing sampling kits, helping the testing team reach as many homes as possible.

Known Cases in Long Term Care Facilities as of 4/2:

- There are **85** long term care facilities with at least one confirmed case of COVID-19. These facilities include nursing homes, rest homes, soldiers' homes and assisted living residences.

- MA has a total of 383 nursing homes, 255 assisted living residences, and 62 rest homes.

PPE Update

In addition to the news Governor Baker shared about the extraordinary effort by the Kraft family to help secure nearly a million masks for COVID-19 responders, Secretary Sudders provided the following Personal Protective Equipment update.

- By the end of the day today, MEMA and DPH will have coordinated at least 700 deliveries of PPE to hospitals, nursing homes, police, fire, EMS, cities and towns.

Battelle N95 Decontamination System: Available to New England Hospitals

- The Battelle N95 decontamination system that has received national press attention is scheduled to be operational in the Boston area on Monday April 6, thanks to Partners Healthcare.

- The Battelle system uses FDA-approved N95 decontamination technology. It will be the fourth site operational in the U.S. The Battelle owned and operated system will be hosted by Partners HealthCare at the currently vacant Somerville K-Mart adjacent to I-93. (Permitting on the site is being finalized.)

- The system can decontaminate up to 80,000 masks per day, which should cover all demand in Massachusetts.

- The principal benefit of their system is that it is fully staffed, industry grade, and brings a level of QA that will allow hospital teams to concentrate on other priorities. Battelle is a defense contractor and provides chemical and biological defense services for the Department of Homeland Security.

Additional Steps Announced to Encourage Social Distancing at State Parks and Beaches (News Release)
Governor Baker today issued an **emergency order** requiring all coastal beach reservation parking areas managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to close effective 12:00 PM on Friday, April 3, 2020 to reduce large concentrations of people at beaches during the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, effective 12:00 PM on Friday, April 3, 2020, DCR will open **select seasonal state parks** early and expand access at other parks to provide additional open space opportunities for residents to enjoy and alternatives to popular state parks throughout the Commonwealth.

Coastal parkways that provide access to state beaches will also be closed to both parking and dropping off passengers. State beaches will remain open and available to pedestrians for transitory use only (walking, jogging, biking, solitary fishing, etc.). A link to find specific parking and traffic restrictions can be found **here**. State parks and associated parking areas remain open at this time; however, the public is asked to visit state parks and other open space properties that are located near their homes to ensure social distancing to limit the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, DCR's agency-owned **ice rinks**, **visitor centers**, **campgrounds**, **playgrounds**, **fitness areas**, athletic fields, athletic courts, golf courses, and bathroom facilities will remain closed until Monday, May 4, 2020.

DCR will also be limiting the amount of parking spaces available at certain high-visitation state parks. DCR continues to stress that if a park is crowded, visitors should consider visiting a different location or returning at a later date or time. The **state parks system** has over 450,000 acres of property, and every region of the state contains multiple parks to explore that may be less busy than others in the area. DCR advises visitors of state parks to:

- Stay within solitary or small groups, and avoid gatherings of ten or more people;
- Practice social distancing of at least six feet between individuals;
- Participate in only non-contact recreational activities;
- Practice healthy personal hygiene, such as handwashing for at least 20 seconds; and
- Stay home if ill, over 70, and/or part of a vulnerable population.

To centralize COVID-19 updates that impact the state parks system, DCR recently developed a Massachusetts State Parks COVID-19 Updates **webpage**. Prior to visiting a state parks property, members of the public should review the contents of the webpage.

Emergency Childcare Centers Update:

- As of today, the Commonwealth had approved over **500 sites** throughout the state to operate as Emergency Childcare Centers (see regional breakdown).
- Attendance reported today was more than **2,600** children, and tomorrow's expected attendance is more than **2,900** children.
- For more visit the Department of Early Education & Care website

Program Counts

Programs	Count
Region 1 - Western MA	**151 (+5)**
Center-based or Out-of-home based	39 (+2)
Home-Based	112 (+3)
Region 2 - Central MA	**115 (-3)**
Center-based or Out-of-home based	44 (-1)
Home-Based	71 (+2)
Region 3 - Northeast MA	**69 (+5)**
Center-based or Out-of-home based	25 (+1)
Home-Based	44 (+4)
Region 5 - Southeast MA	**120 (-1)**
Center-based or Out-of-home based	46
Home-Based	74 (-1)
Region 6 - Boston Metro	**76**
Center-based or Out-of-home based	45
Home-Based	31
Total	**531 (+6)**

Update on Holyoke & Chelsea Soldiers' Home

The Commonwealth continues to make all resources available to the leadership of the Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Testing of all residents of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home has been completed and testing all the staff is being completed. Testing of all residents and staff of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home will also be completed. Additionally, we are adding medical and infection control staff, and ensuring that our caregivers have the proper protective equipment to do their job safely. We will continue to support and fortify our teams on the ground to protect the health and safety of our veteran residents. Yesterday, Governor Baker announced that his office 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. **Val Liptak, the CEO of Western Mass Hospital** has assumed responsibility for the operation of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

Holyoke

- The total numbers at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home as of Thursday:
  - 18 veteran resident deaths (12 positive tests, 3 pending, 2 negatives, 1 unknown)
  - 23 veteran residents have tested positive
  - 7 staff tested positive
- Based on these results, isolation and quarantine zones are being established to contain the virus outbreak in the home.
- The National Guard continues to be onsite to support staffing needs, conduct staff testing, and support the clinical command structure.
  - The testing and screening of all employees continues as they arrive for work.

    - Staff are screened multiple times each day and are asked to leave work if they have elevated temperatures.
- The clinical command structure – led by new administrator Val Liptak, current CEO of Western Massachusetts Hospital -- has focused on implementing immediate controls, staffing, and protocols to protect the health and safety of residents and staff.
- Families have been able to reach out to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke using the dedicated family hotline and email inbox to check in on their relatives and loved ones.
    - **The Family Hotline number is 413-552-4764, and help is available Monday – Friday 8:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
    - The email address is CommunicationsMailbox-HLY@Mass.gov.

Chelsea

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home implemented a continuity of operations plan in early March including establishing and incident command structure in order to proactively prepare the Home's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has and continues to implement the guidance issued by the Department of Public Health, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Guidance, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, including additional cleaning measures per current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, including isolation rooms and quarantine zones for COVID-19 positive residents, increased use of PPE, restricting visitors, increased personal hygiene measures, and increased disinfection protocols.
- On Wednesday, the Boston VA Health Care System deployed medical team members to test residents at the Chelsea facility. This was another proactive step to identify the risk in the facility and get residents appropriate care as well as to reduce potential spreading through the facility
    - The test results included 9 veterans who newly tested positive
- Upon notification of these new positive results, Soldiers' Home worked with our partners at VA Boston Healthcare who quickly assisted in finding appropriate care/ placement for these Veterans
- The total numbers at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home as of Thursday:
    - 2 veteran resident deaths (2 positive)
    - 9 veteran residents who have tested positive
    - 7 staff tested (2 positive, 2 negatives, 3 pending)

How to 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 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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

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.