Sunday, April 5, 2020
COVID-19 Command Center
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (Link in sidebar)
- Drive-Thru Testing Site Opens in Foxborough
- CDC Recommendation on Cloth Masks
- Update on Cases in Long Term Care Facilities & Testing Program
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes

New First Responder Testing Site Launched Today: Gov. Baker & Lt. Gov. Polito announce a new testing site located at Gillette Stadium (See Below)

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

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 4/5

12,500 Total Cases (click for more information

231 Deaths

71,937 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States current as of 4/5

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:

304,826 Total Cases

7,616 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

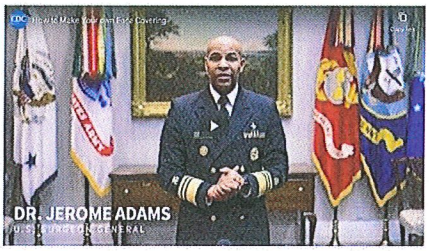
State Actions Today

At a 12:30 p.m. press conference, Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito provided the following update: **(see video of today's briefing)**

Drive-Thru Testing Site for First Responders Opens in Foxborough
Starting Sunday morning. a new drive-thru COVID-19 testing site for first responders has opened at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. This facility was stood up through a collaboration between the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots, the Department of Corrections, Wellpath, and Quest Diagnostics.

The site will be open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with tests done by appointment only. The site is able to test up to 200 individuals per day, with results available in 24-48 hours.

CDC Updated Guidance on Wearing Cloth Masks in Public
On April 3, CDC issued a recommendation about wearing cloth face coverings in public settings. This recommendation was made after considering recent studies that have shown individuals with the virus who lack symptoms can transmit the virus to others. **CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings including places where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (such as grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.**



Watch: Surgeon General Adams shows how to make a cloth mask.

It is critical to emphasize that the mask recommendation does not replace social distancing, stay at home measures, and hand washing recommendations that remain in effect. **Social distancing, staying at home except for essential travel, and hand hygiene remain vitally important to slowing the spread of the virus.** Learn more at the **CDC website**.

Other Important Updates

Known Cases in Long Term Care Facilities (as of 4/5)

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	551
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	102

Click here for the source

DPH is working with the nursing home industry and individual nursing homes across the state to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in their facilities and to make sure residents are receiving the care they need during this unprecedented public health emergency. The administration has distributed advisories to support facilities who have implemented infectious disease controls, restricted visitation to long term care facilities, implemented mobile testing, distributed personal protective equipment and provide support and technical assistance by public health nurses and epidemiologists. Department of Public Health epidemiologists and nurses are working daily with nursing homes across the state to respond to these outbreaks and prevent additional cases. When a nursing home or rest home has identified staffing shortages, DPH works with regional, state, and federal

partners such as the Medical Reserve Corps to request staffing support of nurses with nursing home experience to help ensure the facility has the skilled nursing staff they need to appropriately and safely care for residents.

Update on Nursing Home Testing Program

Last week, 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 program 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. In the first week of operations, **more than 1,200 tests have been collected**. See a summary below of tests completed this week.

Date	Tests Completed	Facilities Visited
3/31	225	1
4/1	55	1
4/2	145	10
4/3	193	18
4/4	310	21
4/5	309	18
Total	**1237**	**69**

Update on Holyoke & Chelsea Soldiers' Home (as of 4/5)

The Commonwealth continues to make every resource available to the clinical command centers at the Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes as they work to care for the veteran residents and staff, including deploying additional staff, supplies, and support for veteran residents, families, and employees as they navigate the challenges of this public health emergency. Below are updates for 4/5.

Holyoke Soldiers' Home

- This weekend, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home completed the move of 39 residents who tested positive to the Holyoke Medical Center for care. This move was supported by the National Guard, who rapidly outfitted the Holyoke Medical Center ward for the residents.
- Weekend staffing to ensure proper care of the veteran residents was maintained with support from the National Guard.
    - Tomorrow, additional nursing staff are being onboarded to care for residents and will be receiving training in infection control developed by the UMass Nursing School Faculty.
- Holyoke continues to strengthen family communication and has confirmed that every veteran residents' health care proxy has been contacted by the home and provided an update.
    - Families can call **the Family Hotline at 413-552-4764 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

- The Holyoke Soldiers' Home clinical command structure continues to proactively prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - The National Guard is working with clinical command to support staffing and operational functions at the home.
    - Holyoke continues to implement the guidance issued from CDC, DPH, CMS, and the VA.
    - The clinical command is properly isolating and caring for COVID-19 positive residents, and continues to distribute and require use of PPE, restricting visitors, increased personal hygiene measures, and increased disinfection protocols.
    - Additional contracted housekeeping staff brought onsite for ongoing terminal cleaning to ensure that infection control measures are adhered to.

- **The total numbers at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home as of 4/5:**
    - 23 veteran resident deaths (17 positive tests, 3 pending, 2 negatives, 1 unknown)
    - 59 veteran residents have tested positive
    - 159 veteran residents have tested negative
    - 18 staff tested positive

Chelsea Soldiers' Home

- All remaining veteran residents are being tested this weekend – starting with the long-term care building on the campus - with support from the National Guard. Staff testing began today and will be completed early this week.
- All veteran residents who test positive for COVID-19 will be transferred to the Boston VA Health Care System for appropriate care.
- iPads have been delivered to Chelsea to support the communications between veteran residents and their loved ones with support from social workers, and families can also request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at CSH@mass.gov.
    - Please note the Soldiers' Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file.
- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home clinical command structure continues to proactively prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has and continues to implement the guidance issued from CDC, DPH, CMS, and the VA.
    - Strictly enforcing isolation rooms and quarantine zones for COVID-19 positive residents, increased use of PPE, restricting visitors, increased personal hygiene measures, and increased disinfection protocols.
    - Chelsea is tracking PPE closely and late on Friday received an additional shipment of masks.
    - Deep cleaning has been and is continuing to be conducted throughout the facility per CDC guidelines and Chelsea has contracted with a cleaning vendor to augment staff housekeeping efforts.

- **The total numbers at Chelsea Soldiers' Home as of 4/5:**
    - 3 veteran resident deaths (3 positive)
    - 14 veteran residents who have tested positive
    - 19 veteran residents who have tested negative
    - 6 staff tested positive

How to Help Out

- Volunteer opportunities for health professionals: **Please click here**.
- Volunteer for the new Community Tracing Collaborative by visiting the PIH Ma-Response page Or DIRECT link to recruiter web.
- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: **Please click here**.
- Health care facilities can learn more about **requesting personal protective equipment here**.

Give Blood:
As you are aware, 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. In order to maintain our commitment to assisting to those affected while balancing our volunteer workforce safety, we have implemented the below 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.

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.