Monday, April 6, 2020
COVID-19 Command Center
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (Link in sidebar)
- Update on Ventilators from the SNS
- Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund Established
- Update on Cases in Long Term Care Facilities & Testing Program
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes

Statewide COVID-19 Relief Fund Launched (See details 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 4/6

13,837 Total Cases (click for more information

260 Deaths

76,429 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States current as of 4/6

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:

330,891 Total Cases

8,910 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 3:45 p.m. press conference, Governor Baker and First Lady Lauren Baker provided the following updates and announcements: **(see video of today's briefing)**

Ventilators from the Strategic National Stockpile
Over the weekend Massachusetts received a shipment of 100 ventilators from the Strategic National Stockpile. The equipment has been evaluated and tested, and starting today is being distributed to community hospitals and academic medical centers, based on guidance from the COVID-19 Command Center's Medical Advisory Board.

Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund
The Governor and First Lady Lauren Baker announced today the launch of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, which will help support essential frontline workers and vulnerable populations across the state, including Massachusetts residents and immigrants facing homelessness, food insecurity, and loss of critical services as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis.

> *"These are unprecedented and uncertain times, and the people of Massachusetts are struggling. The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund will help us connect those who are most acutely impacted by the response to COVID-19 with the resources and services they need to get through this difficult time and stay safe, healthy, and supported."*
> ***-- First Lady of Massachusetts, Lauren Baker***

Donations raised through the Fund will be distributed in partnership with the state's community foundations that cover counties statewide and other critical non-profits, ensuring that Massachusetts communities can benefit from access to this much-needed pool of resources. The Fund was conceptualized by the One8 Foundation, who helped establish the fund and provided a lead donation of $1.8 million. The MA COVID-19 Relief Fund is administered by Eastern Bank. The Foundation for Business Equity (FBE) and The Boston Foundation are acting as fiscal sponsors for the Fund. Elissa Flynn-Poppey of Mintz Levin provided invaluable advice and counsel.

The One8 Foundation is joined by other Massachusetts philanthropists, including the Klarman Family Foundation, Joshua and Anita Bekenstein Charitable Fund, Charlesbank Capital Partners/Barbara and Michael Eisenson, the Fireman Family Foundation and an anonymous donor. Additional founding donors include: the Edgerley Family Foundation, Liz and Phill Gross, Mannion Family Foundation, Dupre-Nunnelly Charitable Gift Fund, the Baupost Group, Rob and Karen Hale, TJX, Mickey and Bob Atchinson, the Abrams Family Foundation, Michael and Jill Stansky Family Foundation, the Frieze Family Foundation, William Helman, MFN Partners, Lynch Family Foundation, Stephanie and Brian Spector, Ernie Boch Jr., Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, Maurice and Luly Samuels, and Chris and Lisa Collins.

Together, these generous donors will kickstart the fund with over $13 million.

Other Important Updates

Known Cases in Long Term Care Facilities (as of 4/6 at 12:30 p.m.)

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	835
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	119

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 which have implemented infectious disease controls, restricted visitation to long term care facilities, implemented mobile testing, distributed personal protective equipment and provided support and technical assistance by public health nurses and epidemiologists. Department of Public is 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 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. Since launching the initiative, **more than 1,300 tests have been collected**. See a summary below of tests completed so far.

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
4/6	124	11
Total	**1361**	**80**

Update on Holyoke & Chelsea Soldiers' Home (as of 4/6)

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 4/6:

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

Holyoke Soldiers' Home

- Today, 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.
    - In addition to augmenting care and operational staff efforts with support by the National Guard, Holyoke is seeking immediate staffing support through contract workers, per diem workers, and additional avenues.
- Also today, a clinical team comprised of a nurse case manager and care coordinators has been deployed to provide immediate support for family communications at the Holyoke Soldiers' Homes.
    - This support is being provided by Behavioral Health Network and Riverside Community Care and was established in coordination with the National Association of Social Workers - MA Chapter.
    - This additional support for family communication is to bolster the work already underway at Holyoke to keep veterans' families apprised of the situation.
- Holyoke will continue to contact every resident's health care proxy to provide updates.
- 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. 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 Holyoke Soldiers' Home clinical command structure continues to proactively prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - Holyoke continues to implement the guidance issued from CDC, DPH, CMS, and the VA.
    - The clinical command is enforcing quarantine zones 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 Monday:**
    - 25 veteran resident deaths (18 positive tests, 3 pending, 3 negatives, 1 unknown)
    - 59 veteran residents have tested positive
    - 159 veteran residents have tested negative
    - 31 staff tested positive; 179 staff tested negative

Chelsea Soldiers' Home

- The team at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home is focused on ensuring appropriate staffing to provide safe care for residents - and putting in place per diem contracts with NP, RN, LPNs for immediate starts.
- Staff testing is in progress and will be completed early this week.
    - Human resources are bringing on additional security staffing for campus security and to staff screening tents.
- As of today, all veteran residents who tested positive for COVID-19 have been transferred to the Boston VA Health Care System, and if additional veteran residents test positive, they will also be transferred for appropriate clinical care.

- Chelsea continues to provide support for resident communications with loved ones:
  - iPads have been delivered to Chelsea to support communication and are being used by residents with assistance from social workers.
  - 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. 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 Chelsea Soldiers' Home clinical command structure continues to proactively prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including regular, frequent deep cleaning and terminal cleaning.
  - The Chelsea Soldiers' Home has and continues to implement the guidance issued from CDC, DPH, CMS, and the VA, and is closely monitoring the supply of PPE.
  - 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.
  - 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 Monday:**
  - 3 veteran resident deaths (3 positive)
  - 14 veteran residents who have tested positive
  - 19 veteran residents who have tested negative
  - 258 veteran residents have been tested and are awaiting results
  - 7 staff tested positive

How to Help Out

- Donate to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- 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).

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.

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:

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)

10 Tips for at home quarantine or self-monitoring -- coming soon.

Spanish Radio Spots (available on request):

- Prevent the Spread of Germs
- Social Distancing
- Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.

Social media – please continue to follow and re-tweet DPH on Twitter @MassDPH, updated several times per day.

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.