Tuesday, March 31, 2020
COVID-19 Response Command Center
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (Linked in sidebar)
- Updated Essential Services Order
- Updated Guidance for Hotels/Motels
- Stay at Home Advisory
- Executive Branch Employee Guidance
- Field Medical Station Announcement
- Nursing/Rest Home On-Site Testing

Resource Highlight:

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

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:

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.

Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts current as of 3/31

6,620 Total Cases (click for more information)

89 Deaths

46,935 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States current as of 3/31

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:

163,539 Total Cases

2,860 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 2 pm press conference, Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and Secretary Sudders provided several updates and announcements: (News Release) (**See Video of Today's Briefing**)

Essential Services Order:
Governor Charlie Baker's emergency order requiring that all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public will be extended until May 4. Businesses and organizations not on the list of essential services are encouraged to continue operations through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter or appear at the brick-and-mortar premises closed by the order. This order also prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people until May 4th.

The Administration updated the "COVID-19 Essential Services" list today, which is based on federal guidance that was updated earlier this week. The new list will go into effect tomorrow, April 1, at noon. While these businesses are designated as essential, they are urged to follow social distancing protocols for workers in accordance with guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Some of the updates to the essential services list include:

- Clarity around the supply chain that supports other essential services
- Adding health care providers like chiropractors and optometrists
- Expanding the types of workers providing disinfectant and sanitation services

Click **here** for the essential services extension order.

Click **here** for the full list of categories of "COVID-19 Essential Services." (**PDF**)

Click **here** for COVID-19 Essential Services FAQs created by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

Hotel/Motel Guidance:
As part of the updated essential business list, DPH issued new guidance today around hotels, motels, inns, beds and breakfasts and other short-term residential rentals. Based on this new guidance, hotels, motels, and short-term rentals may only be used for efforts related to fighting COVID-19, like front line health workers or individuals, or for Massachusetts residents who have been otherwise displaced from their residences.
Click **here** for the Hotel/Motel Guidance.

Stay at Home Advisory:
Last week, Governor Charlie Baker directed DPH to issue a stay-at-home advisory, and the Governor announced today that the advisory will remain in effect. Residents are advised to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary person to person contact during this time period. Residents who are considered at high risk when exposed to COVID-19 should limit social interactions with other people as much as possible.
Click **here** for the Stay-At-Home Advisory.

Executive Branch Employee Guidance:
The Baker-Polito Administration today also extended the guidance issued to Executive Branch employees on protocols during the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure state government can continue to provide key services while protecting the health and safety of the public and the Executive Branch workforce. Under the guidance, all employees performing non-core functions who are able to work remotely should continue to do so until May 4. Full guidance will be sent to Executive Branch employees later today.

Some Executive Branch services and walk-in offices remain open, but residents are encouraged to use online services when available. For the status of in-person Executive Branch office locations, please click **here**.

Field Medical Station Announcement:
The Commonwealth, through MEMA, has requested and received approval for a Field Medical Station (FMS) that will provide additional medical care capacity as the state plans for a surge in cases. The federal Strategic National Stockpile has approved a 250-bed FMS that will be deployed to the DCU Center in the City of Worcester this week. This temporary facility will be managed by UMass Memorial Health Care and staffed by a partnership including the City of Worcester and others. The temporary FMS will be used to treat lower acuity patients who still need monitoring.

Nursing/Rest Home On-Site Testing Program:
The Commonwealth is implementing a pilot project that allows for safe, on-site testing of symptomatic residents of nursing and rest homes with a quick turnaround. The pilot will operate 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, the only way for nursing home residents to be tested would be to be transported to a hospital or physician's office.

Other Important Information

CVS Shrewsbury, MA COVID-19 Testing Site:
The drive-thru COVID-19 testing site for first responders and medical professionals located in Shrewsbury, MA is currently **closed** while it undergoes a deep cleaning process. No determination on when the site will reopen has been made at this time.

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
The Red Cross is facing a critical shortage of blood products due to cancellations of blood drives across the Commonwealth because of implementation of necessary prevention and mitigation actions during COVID-19 outbreak. The Governor has deemed "Blood and plasma donors and the employees of the organizations that operate and manage related activities" as an essential service.

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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). To schedule a new blood drive contact Bill Forsyth at (617) 699-3808 or email William.Forsyth@redcross.org.

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.

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.

DPH and MassDOT partnered to create a new billboard campaign that is appearing across Massachusetts. Stay Home. Stay Safe. Save Lives.