

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

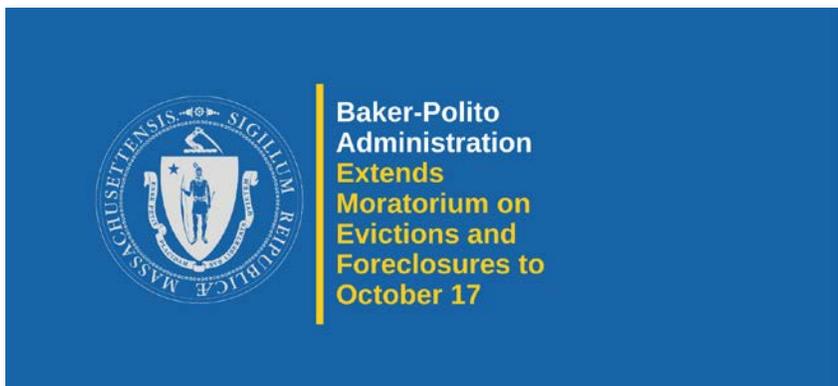
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

Note: Beginning this week the Command Center Situation Report will be published on a Tuesday/Thursday Schedule.

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures extended to October 17
- Public Health Data: Daily Dashboard
- Sixth Annual *Summer Nights* Launched With COVID-19 Safety Guidelines
- Health Connector Extended Open Enrollment Ends This Week
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Situation Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- [Stop the Spread](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [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 7/21**

107,221 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

8,231 Deaths among confirmed cases

1,052,369 individuals tested for the virus to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 7/21**

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:

3,819,139 Total Cases

140,630 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

Testing Update:

Today, more than **7,800** new molecular (viral) tests were reported in Massachusetts with **165** newly reported confirmed positive cases. From Saturday to Monday, more than **36,000** new tests were reported to DPH, bringing the total molecular tests administered to date to more than **1,350,000**.

Hospitalizations & Capacity Update:

As of today, **513** people are hospitalized, with **63** reported to be in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Key indicators from today's Daily Dashboard are below.

Baker-Polito Administration Extends Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures to October 17

Today, Governor Charlie Baker [extended the pause on evictions and foreclosures for 60 days](#), until October 17, 2020, through the authority granted to the governor by Chapter 65 of the Acts of 2020, *An Act providing for a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 Emergency*, which was signed into law on April 20, 2020. This law's limitations on evictions and foreclosures have allowed many tenants and homeowners impacted by COVID-19 to remain in their homes during the state of emergency, and this extension provides residents of the Commonwealth with continued housing security as businesses cautiously re-open, more people return to work, and the state collectively moves toward a "new normal." The moratorium was set to expire on August 18, 2020.

[Click here to read the extension letter.](#)

Tenants are strongly encouraged to continue to pay rent, and homeowners to make their mortgage payments, to the extent they are able. To assist low-income households in making rent and mortgage payments, as well as support landlords needing these rent payments to pay expenses, the [Baker-Polito Administration launched a new \\$20 million, statewide fund](#), the Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) program, on July 1st.

This funding complements the \$18 million currently available through the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) homeless prevention program, which can also be used for rent or mortgage payments. In each program, landlords or mortgage lenders receive payments directly from the RAFT administering agencies.

During this 60-day extension, the Administration will consult with the court administrators and other stakeholders regarding programs and policies to help tenants avoid eviction when proceedings resume.

The law suspends most residential and small business commercial evictions, as well as residential foreclosures. It does not relieve tenants or homeowners of their obligation to pay rent or make mortgage payments. The law also:

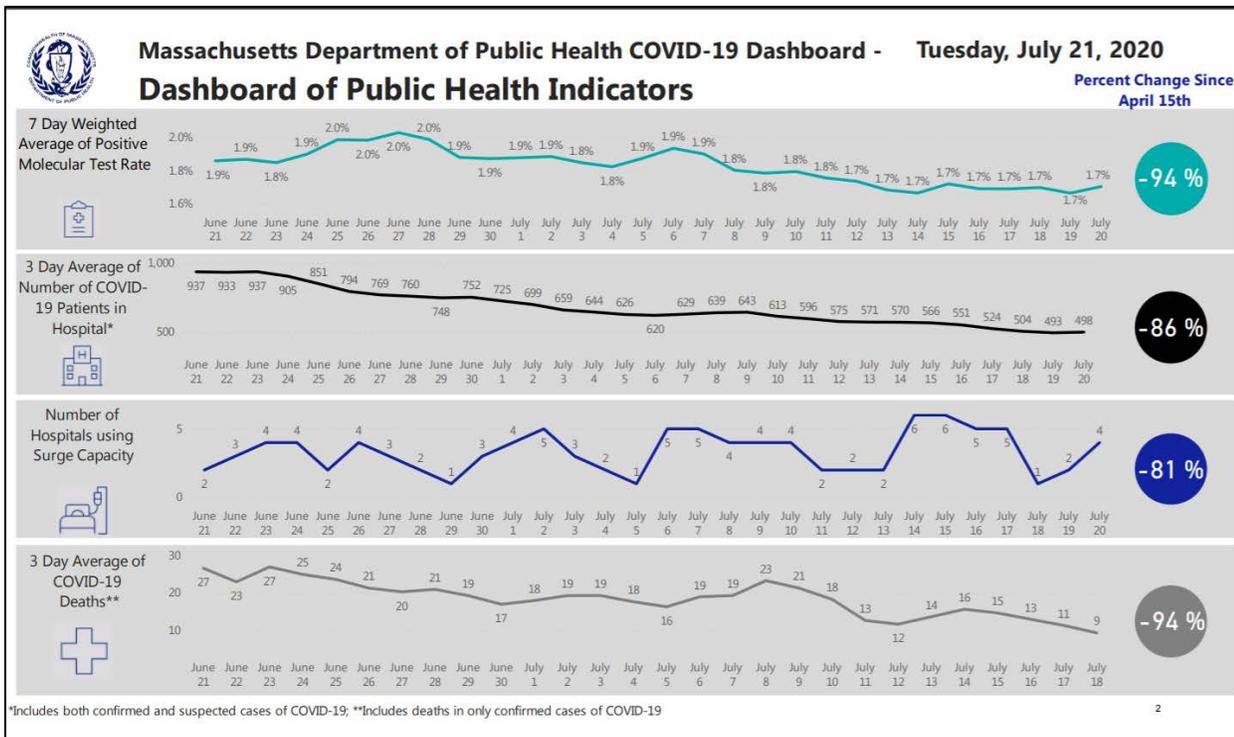
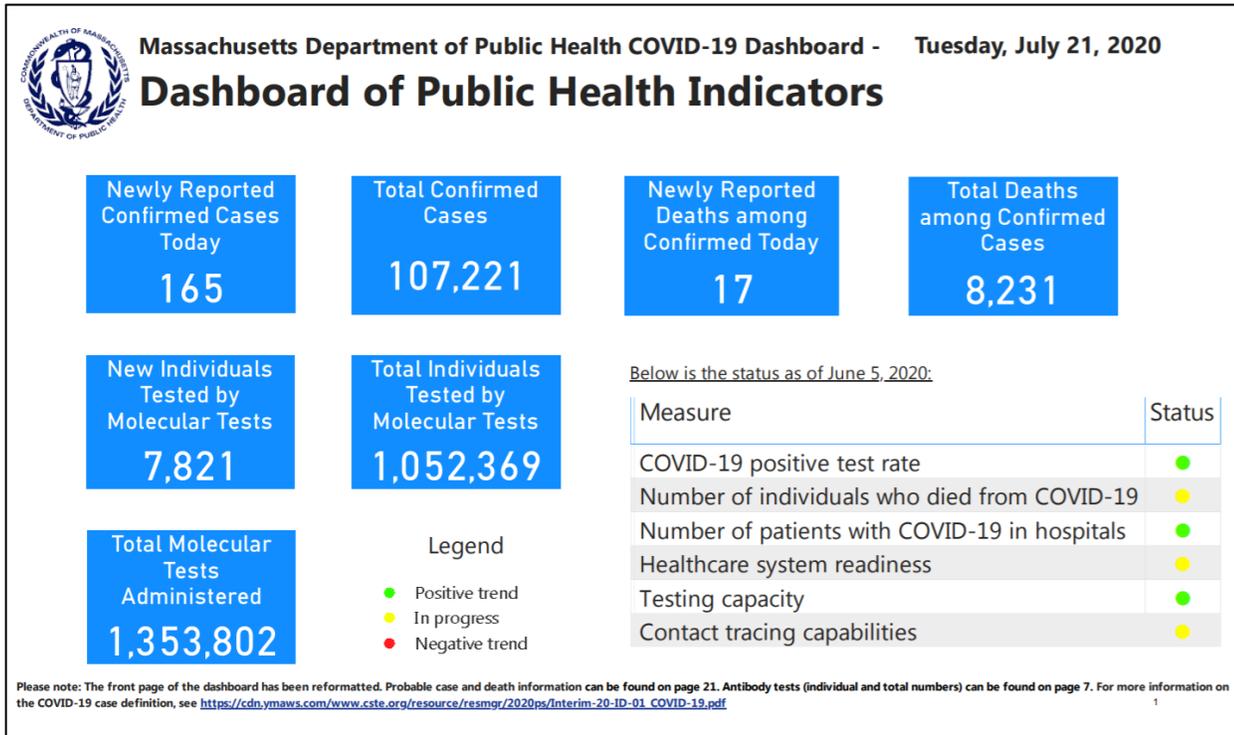
- Prevents landlords from sending notifications to residential tenants that threaten eviction or terminating of a lease;
- Limits court actions on non-essential evictions;
- Relieves tenants, both residents and small commercial, from late fees and negative credit reporting;
- Allows landlords to use "last month's rent" to pay for certain expenses, though not as a replacement rent payment, and only with proper notification of tenant;
- Requires lenders to grant a forbearance for up to 180 days if a homeowner experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 submits such a request; and

Allows for alternative payment agreements between lenders and borrowers regarding forbearance payments. Additional resources and information can be found on DHCD's [COVID-19 Resource Page](#).

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COVID-19 Public Health Update

Key data reflected in the July 21st Daily Dashboard is provided below:



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Important Updates

Baker-Polito Administration Announces 6th Annual Summer Nights Initiative

Yesterday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the 2020 Summer Nights Initiative, which will provide urban youth with socially distant programming at Massachusetts state parks and other locations starting on Monday, July 20, 2020 and continuing through Friday, August 21, 2020.

This year participating organizations must follow all guidance issued for programming to aid in the prevention of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Guidance includes:

- All individuals should remain at least six feet apart at all times to the greatest extent possible;
- All individuals are required to wear face coverings;
- The managing entity must establish an on-line or on-site registration system prior to commencing program;
- The programs must separate participants into groups of no more than 12 participants, including coaches and staff; and,
- The programs should minimize equipment sharing.

Participating organizations include Score4More (Roxbury); PIM (Hyde Park & Dorchester); Youth Connect (Worcester); NAACP (Remote programming serving Boston youth); Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence (Lawrence/Methuen); Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell (Greater Lowell); Dennison Community Center (New Bedford); Devoted Dynasty Entertainment (Roxbury); Lena Park Community Center (Dorchester); Black Ministerial Alliance (Dorchester); Level Ground Martial Arts (Dorchester); Black Men of Greater Springfield (Springfield); Youth Guidance (Remote programming serving Boston youth), and Teach 1 Basketball (East Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury).

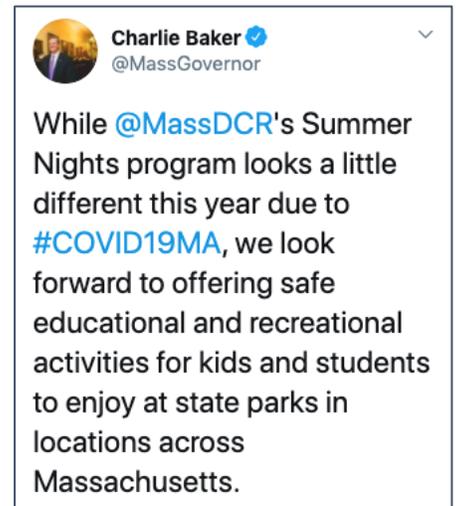
In order to attend Summer Nights Initiative programming, participants must register (either through pre-registration online or on-site registration, depending on the framework developed by the organization). For a full list of programming and other information, **please visit DCR's Summer Nights Initiative [webpage](#)**.

The Health Connector Extended Open Enrollment Period Ends Thursday

The Health Connector's extended enrollment period expires on Thursday, July 23, which is the enrollment deadline for Aug. 1 coverage. Uninsured residents will continue to have access to Health Connector through other existing life-change Special Enrollment Periods, such as recent coverage loss, or new applications that qualify for subsidized ConnectorCare coverage. People who need health insurance can visit MAhealthconnector.org for more information and to complete an application.

"Stop the Spread" Testing Sites Continue in 8 Communities

Free COVID-19 testing sites are open in eight communities as part of the Baker-Polito Administration's "Stop the Spread" initiative. These sites will remain open until August 14 to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in communities that are above the state average in total cases and positive test rate, and have experienced a decline in testing levels since April. Residents of the communities of Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Marlborough, and New Bedford are urged to take advantage of the availability of these new testing sites, even if they are asymptomatic. While these sites were launched in these communities, they are open to all residents of the Commonwealth. Visit mass.gov/stophespread to find out more.



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

Note: The Family Resource Line is available Monday-Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Onsite Testing: Long Term Care

Date	Number of Tests Completed	Unique Facilities Visited
Total (as of 6/15)	57,058	493

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 7/21)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	23,872
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	369
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	5,374

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 7/19 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	12,804
Staff	18,122
Total Tests	30,926
Number of Locations	2,052



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



Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update (as of 7/20):

- Since resuming outdoor visitation, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke has held more than 485 visits, between veteran residents and their loved ones. Outdoor visitation with veterans' families and loved ones is being offered Tuesday through Saturday, with 20 slots available each day. Families and loved ones are able to schedule visits with veterans in advance using the Family Line.
 - The Soldiers' Home is following [visitation guidance](#) using 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 is occurring alongside continued video visits, 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.
- Residents are actively continuing their recovery, and the health status of veterans has seen marked improvement. If there is any sign of COVID-like symptoms, residents are retested.
- The Home is continuing recreational activities for Veterans, respecting social distancing, and veterans continue to go outside with nursing and recreation staff. The Soldiers' Home has resumed offering religious services onsite, limiting size, respecting social distancing, and hosting outside weather permitting.
- In June, the Baker-Polito Administration released the independent report ordered by Governor Baker to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak at Holyoke Soldiers' Home, and announced a series of reforms to

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strengthen its governance and oversight of the Home, improving staffing processes, providing quality care for our Veterans, and planning for significant capital improvements.

- The Soldiers' Home leadership is committed to ensuring the safety of the Veteran residents and restoring the Home to its rightful place that treats them with dignity, honor and respect. The Soldiers' Home leadership is moving into the Transition & Rebuilding Phase that is focused on rebuilding staff leadership and team and positioning the facility to move forward safely.
- Phase 1 of the refresh project, which involved updating the interiors of the 3rd floor units for enhanced infection control, is nearing completion this month.
- 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. 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.
- **The current status as of July 20 is as follows:**
 - The current status of all residents:
 - 0 veterans are positive across the Home and those at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 62 veterans are negative
 - 82 veterans have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 0 veterans have a pending test result
 - 1 veteran has refused testing
 - Resident locations:
 - 119 veterans are onsite
 - 26 veterans are offsite
 - 25 veterans are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 1 veteran is receiving acute care offsite
 - Since March 1, there have been 101 veteran deaths (76 deaths of veterans who tested positive, 20 veterans who tested negative, 1 veteran whose status was unknown, 4 veterans were clinically recovered)
 - Today's update includes the death of 1 recovered individual who was at the dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center who was receiving comfort measures only (CMO).
 - Employees at the Home have been retested and all are clinically recovered.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update (as of 7/20)

- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to welcome visitors for outdoor visitation between veterans and loved ones and has welcomed 185 total since resuming visitation. Following visitation guidance, the Home has protocols that prioritize the health and safety of our Veterans and staff with continued focus on infection control. 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 is occurring 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.

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- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea is reporting the recovery of residents based on clinical determinations following the retesting of all veterans, and 43 residents who had previously tested positive have been determined clinically recovered.
- The Home has eased restrictions for Dorm residents, who can now order food delivery from area restaurants, and drive in their personal vehicles off-site to medical appointments. The curfew has been extended, now from 11pm - 5am.
- The Soldiers' Home in Chelsea monitors the PPE supply, and received a shipment of thousands of pieces of PPE including gloves, masks, eye protection, and gowns. The Incident Command team at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home continues to enforce staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as source PPE to ensure that residents and staff have access to critical safety equipment. The team continues to coordinate closely with the VA Health Care System.
- **The current status as of July 20 is as follows:**
 - Residents
 - 0 veteran residents are positive
 - 152 veteran residents have tested negative
 - 43 residents have recovered, meaning they previously tested positive and are now clinically recovered
 - 43 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 11 tested negative, 1 clinically recovered)
 - Employees:
 - All employees have been retested and have been determined clinically recovered
 - 5 employees have pending tests
 - 61 employees have been determined clinically recovered

Resources

Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center

In order to provide support to families and communities who have suffered loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Red Cross has developed a Virtual Family Assistance Center (VFAC), staffed by a team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care, and health services volunteers who are:

- Connecting with families over the phone to offer condolences, emotional and spiritual support, and access to available resources
- Providing support for virtual memorial services for families, including connecting with local faith-based community partners
- Hosting online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills
- Assisting families with access to national, state or local resources such as grief counseling, legal resources, funeral information, financial information services, or veterans' assistance
- Additional state- and local-specific resources are available.

People can visit: <https://www.redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center/ma-family-assistance-center.html> to access this resource with special virtual programs, information, referrals and services to support families in need. People without internet access can **call toll-free 833-492-0094** for help. All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.

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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:

Overview of COVID-19 Testing	Importance of COVID-19 Testing	How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Vietnamese • Haitian Creole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish • Portuguese • Simplified Chinese • Traditional Chinese • Haitian Creole • Vietnamese

- [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.](#)
- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: [Please click here.](#)
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment 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. 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