

Thursday, May 13, 2021  
**COVID-19 Command Center**  
**Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

## Situation Update

*The Command Center Situation Report is published weekly. The next report will be published on Thursday, 5/20/21.*



*On Wednesday, Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito visited Moderna's Norwood facility to learn more about their work with innovative mRNA technology that led to the production of their COVID-19 vaccine in record time.*

### In This Week's Report:

Latest Data: Public Health & Vaccine Data Update

- Week in Review: Key State Actions
  - CDC Announces Authorization of Pfizer Vaccine for Individuals ages 12-15
  - Baker Administration Announces Employer Vaccination Program
  - Reopening of Additional Phase 4 Industries Announced
  - Extension of Stop the Spread Testing Initiative
  - DPH, Emergency Management, and Disaster Recovery Updates
  - Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Weekly Update
  - New Communication Resources

### Helpful Links:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance](#)
- [Public Messaging Resources for Municipalities & Businesses](#)
- [Mass.gov/findfoodhelp](#)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](#)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [COVID-19 Cost Eligibility and Tracking Guidance](#)



## Situation in Numbers

**Massachusetts** **current as of 5/13**

655,350 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

17,366 Deaths among confirmed cases

22,190,823 tests for the virus conducted to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals, and commercial laboratories.

**United States** **Last Updated 5/13**

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:

32,608,287 Total Cases

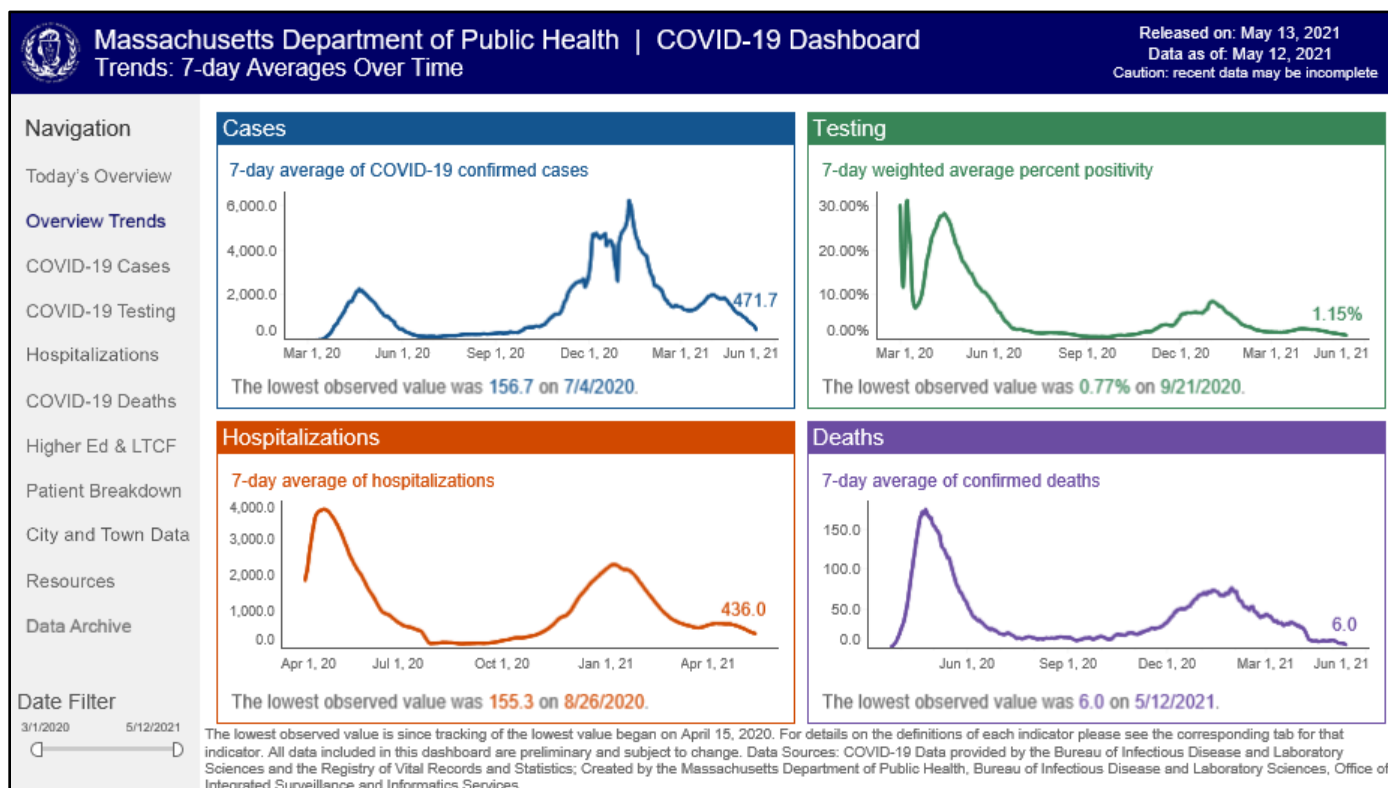
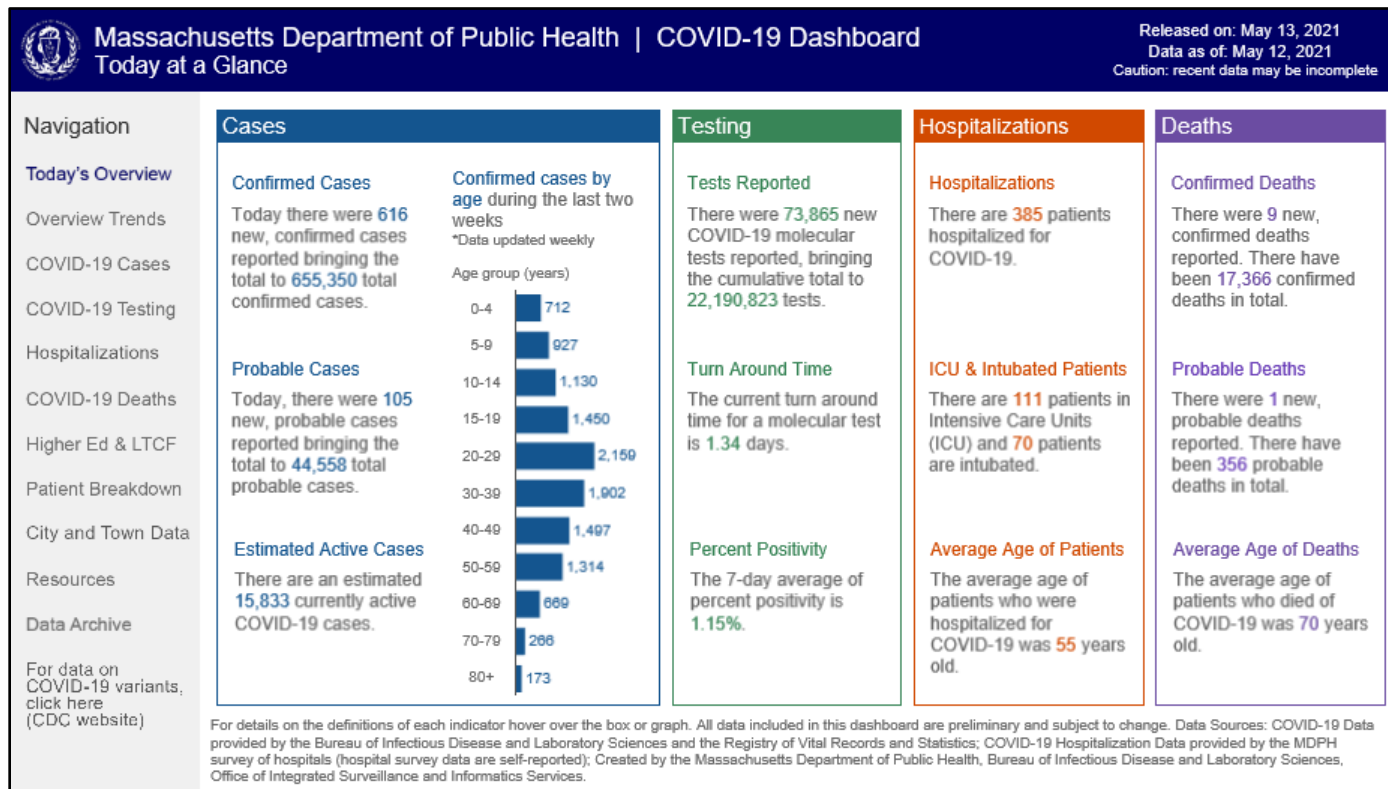
580,073 Deaths

57 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, American Samoa, and US V.I.)



Mass.Gov/CovidVaccine

## Latest Data: COVID-19 Public Health Update



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER  
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

**Weekly Public Health Report:**

The Command Center released the [Weekly Public Health Report](#) on Thursday, 5/13. The report primarily includes information related to cases and inspection data for Long Term Care Facilities. Data previously included in the Weekly Report, including town-level data, contact tracing information (including active COVID cluster information by Exposure Setting Type), are now presented in the [Daily Interactive Dashboard](#).

**Vaccine Update:** For a more detailed weekly breakdown, [visit the MA COVID-19 Vaccination Data webpage](#).

	5/7	5/8	5/9	5/10	5/11	5/12	5/13
<b>DOSES SHIPPED</b>							
Doses Shipped to MA Providers (MIIS)*	5,198,115	5,281,415	5,281,415	5,281,415	5,480,515	5,485,895	5,486,895
Doses Shipped to Pharmacies and Directly by the Federal Government - Including FPPP Providers (Tiberius)	2,625,805	2,625,805	2,650,375	2,660,055	2,691,725	2,729,965	2,784,435
<b>Grand Total Shipped to MA</b>	<b>7,823,920</b>	<b>7,907,220</b>	<b>7,931,790</b>	<b>7,941,470</b>	<b>8,172,240</b>	<b>8,215,860</b>	<b>8,271,330</b>
<b>DOSES ADMINISTERED (MIIS)*</b>							
1st Moderna or Pfizer Doses Administered # of people with at least one dose	3,758,700	3,782,087	3,811,389	3,829,677	3,844,100	3,857,773	3,870,892
2nd Moderna or Pfizer Doses Administered # of people fully vaccinated	2,616,931	2,663,906	2,704,269	2,738,737	2,779,983	2,823,166	2,860,585
Janssen (J&J) Doses Administered (MIIS) # of people fully vaccinated	218,831	220,821	222,819	224,200	225,490	226,888	228,114
<b>Grand Total Doses Administered (MIIS)</b>	<b>6,594,462</b>	<b>6,666,814</b>	<b>6,738,477</b>	<b>6,792,614</b>	<b>6,849,573</b>	<b>6,907,827</b>	<b>6,959,591</b>
<b>Grand Total Fully Vaccinated People with Existing COVID-19 Vaccines**</b>	<b>2,835,762</b>	<b>2,884,727</b>	<b>2,927,088</b>	<b>2,962,937</b>	<b>3,005,473</b>	<b>3,050,054</b>	<b>3,088,699</b>
<b>% of Total Doses Shipped That Have Been Reported as Administered</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>85.0%</b>	<b>85.5%</b>	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>84.1%</b>	<b>84.1%</b>

\*Data from the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) are as of midnight the night before.

\*\*Fully vaccinated people have 2 doses of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or 1 dose of Janssen (J&J) vaccine

**MA Dose Allocation Update:**

This week, the Commonwealth received 245,460 first and second doses as part of the state allocation. These figures do not include doses provided directly from the federal government to the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) or Community Vaccination Center (CVC).

This week, first doses and second dose state allocations (total doses), were distributed among providers as follows:

- Health systems and health care providers (excluding community health centers): 81,890
- Regional Collaboratives and Local Boards of Health: 57,720
- Mass vaccination locations: 97,250
- Community Health Centers state allocation only: 7,100
- Mobile Clinics supporting long-term care facilities, congregate care, affordable/low-income senior housing, and homebound individuals: 1,500

Weekly allocations are subject to change based on federal availability, demand from providers, and obligations to meet second doses. Providers have 10 days to use their doses and must meet specific performance thresholds.

**Federal Doses:**

## COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

In addition to the state allocation, the federal government has increased its distribution of vaccines to CVS Health sites as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership as well as to certain Massachusetts federally qualified community health centers. These quantities fluctuate on a weekly basis and are not counted as part of the state's weekly allocation but represent an increasing allocation to selected locations.

This week, 112,240 first and second doses were allocated to the retail pharmacy program.

FQHCs received 30,200 doses directly from the Federal Government.

The Community Vaccination Clinic at the Hynes Convention Center was allocated 42,120 doses.

### *Week in Review: State Actions*

#### **CDC Announces Authorization of Pfizer Vaccine for Individuals ages 12-15:**

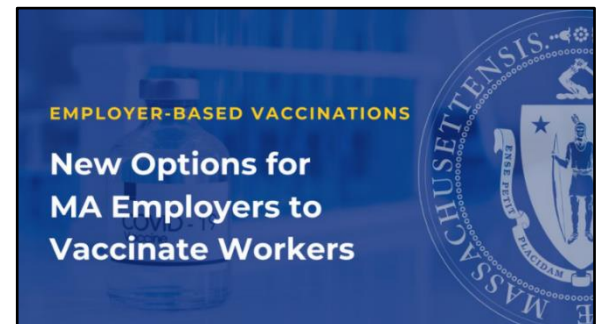
Yesterday, the CDC authorized the use of the Pfizer vaccine for individuals ages 12-15. MA residents 12-15 are now eligible to book appointments at any location offering the Pfizer vaccine beginning today 5/13. This age group represents around 400,000 total residents. There are over 900 vaccination locations in the Commonwealth and all individuals 12-15 can visit [mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine) to find a location that offers the Pfizer vaccine and schedule an appointment. All individuals ages 12-15 who pre-registered will be contacted tomorrow to schedule an appointment. The Department of Public Health has reached out to primary care providers and pediatric providers to order and administer the Pfizer vaccine for this age group through their practices.



#### **Baker Administration Announces Employer Vaccination Program:**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced Wednesday the Commonwealth's Employer Vaccination Program, which will allow Massachusetts employers options to easily and conveniently vaccinate their employees.

All detailed information on this program can be found at [www.mass.gov/EmployerVaccine](https://www.mass.gov/EmployerVaccine). This webpage includes a link to a form that employers should submit to request appointments. There is no financial cost to the employer.



There are two main options for employers:

#### ***Option 1: Group appointments at mass vaccination sites.***

This is the quickest and easiest option. Appointments will be scheduled starting Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Employers can request a block of appointments at any of the Commonwealth's 7 mass vaccination sites. Employers can help register employees for their appointments or the Commonwealth will provide an employer with links to share with employees so they can sign up during the block of appointments. The minimum number of appointments required is 10 and there is no maximum limit. Registration requires simple demographic information – insurance and identification are not required at the time of registration or appointment, if not available. Employers can set up a table or kiosk onsite to have an onsite presence for employees which can be coordinated with the site operator after submitting a request. These sites are easy, fast, and convenient. Most vaccination appointments take less than 30 minutes, including the 15-minute observation period. Employers can request a block of appointments for their employees to be



## COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

vaccinated on a specific day/time. Employers or employees will be responsible for transportation to and from the vaccination site.

Sites are available 7 days a week, hours vary by site/day. Extensive accessibility accommodations are available and additional special accommodations may be made available upon request (e.g., interpreters). This option will be available through June 30<sup>th</sup>, with first dose appointments available through June 11<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on how to book group appointments and to submit an official request form, visit the employer vaccination page at [mass.gov/employervaccine](https://mass.gov/employervaccine). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

### **Option 2: Mobile on-site employer vaccination clinic**

Employers who have confirmed that 35 or more employees will obtain a vaccination at the employer pop-up clinic may request a mobile, on-site, vaccination clinic. A vaccination provider will come on-site to the employer host-property to vaccinate individuals and return 3-4 weeks later to deliver 2nd doses. Employers must survey employees and confirm participation prior to requesting a clinic.

To schedule an on-site clinic, employers will need to provide:

- Address of employer and contact person
- Number of employees who have confirmed that they will receive the vaccination
- Space for vaccination clinic (inside, outside) and any additional details
- Type of appointment registration (i.e., ahead of clinic, day-of), prior registration preferred
- Requested date and time

Employer clinics will be scheduled and prioritized based upon number of individuals getting vaccinated and location of the clinic. Employers located in communities with vaccination rates below the state average will be prioritized. On-site clinics will begin as soon as Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

All details on employer vaccinations options and requirements can be found at

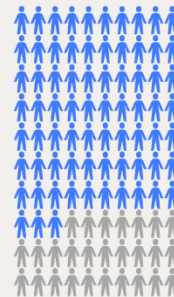
[www.mass.gov/employervaccine](https://www.mass.gov/employervaccine)

Additionally, we encourage all employers to remind their employees of the importance of getting vaccinated and of the availability of more than 900 locations across the state. For more information, please check the state's website at

[www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](https://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine).

## Fast Vax Stats

Week Ending 5/9/21



# 73%

of adults in Massachusetts have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.  
SOURCE: CDC 5/9

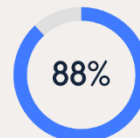
### We're ranked 1st

Massachusetts is ranked 1st for first doses, and 1st for total doses delivered per capita for states with a population of at least 5 million residents.

SOURCES: Bloomberg 5/9, CDC 5/9

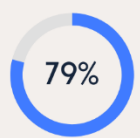


### Older Adults



of residents 75 or older in MA have received a first dose, exceeding the national avg. of 83%

SOURCE: Mass.gov, CDC, U.S. Census



**Every county in MA has vaccinated at least 79% of its 75+ population**

## Equity

The Commonwealth's continuing Vaccine Equity Initiative is a cornerstone of the MA vaccine strategy.

Outreach efforts are paying off.

- MA is 3rd in the nation for the percentage of Black residents with at least one dose (including J&J)
- MA has given first doses (including J&J) to at least 38% of Black residents, and 34% Hispanic residents (compared with the national avg. of 17% and 18% respectively)

SOURCES: Bloomberg, UMass Donahue Institute, CDC

**GET VACCINATED: [Mass.Gov/CovidVaccine](https://mass.gov/covidvaccine)**

## COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

### **Baker Administration Announces Reopening of Additional Phase 4 Industries to Go into Effect May 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that Massachusetts will move forward in the Commonwealth's reopening plan to reopen certain outdoor Phase 4 industries effective May 10<sup>th</sup>, as previously announced. The Administration continues to take steps to reopen the Commonwealth's economy with public health metrics continuing to trend in a positive direction.

On March 22, Massachusetts loosened restrictions and [advanced to Phase IV of the Commonwealth's reopening plan](#). Since then, daily new COVID-19 cases have dropped by 45%, hospitalizations have dropped by 23%, and deaths have dropped by 69%. All these metrics have dropped by around 80% or more since the beginning of the year. The Commonwealth also remains a national leader in COVID-19 vaccinations, and over 3.9 million people are fully or partially vaccinated, and Massachusetts is [on track to meet its goal](#) of vaccinating over 4 million people by the beginning of June.



### **Effective Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>:**

The Commonwealth will reopen certain outdoor Phase 4 industries.

- Amusement parks, theme parks and outdoor water parks will be permitted to operate at a 50% capacity after submitting safety plans to the Department of Public Health.
- Road races and other large, outdoor organized amateur or professional group athletic events will be permitted to take place with staggered starts and other appropriate safety measures after submitting safety plans to a local board of health or the DPH.

Additionally, large capacity venues such as indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas, and ballparks currently open at 12% capacity as part of Phase 4, Step 1 will be permitted to increase capacity to 25%.

Youth and adult amateur sports tournaments will be allowed for moderate and high-risk sports.

Singing will also be permitted indoors with strict distancing requirements at performance venues, restaurants, event venues and other businesses.

Grocery stores and retail stores with a pharmacy department should consider dedicated hours of operation for seniors but will no longer be required to offer senior hours.

### **Additional Changes Anticipated to be Effective Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Contingent on continued positive trends in the public health and vaccination data, on May 29<sup>th</sup>, additional sectors will be permitted to re-open and gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings and private settings.

The additional sectors that will be permitted to open include:

- Parades, street festivals and agricultural festivals, after submitting safety plans to the local board of health including measures for maintaining social distance, staffing and operations plans and hygiene and cleaning protocols.
- Bars, beer gardens, breweries, wineries, and distilleries, which will be subject to restaurant rules with seated service only, a 90-minute limit and no dance floors.

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Subject to public health and vaccination data, the restaurant guidance will be updated to eliminate the requirement that food be served with alcohol and to increase the maximum table size to 10.

Last week, the Administration also relaxed the Face Coverings Order for some outdoor settings and announced further reopening plans for August 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information, visit [mass.gov/reopening](https://mass.gov/reopening).

### **Baker Administration Announces Extension of Stop the Spread Testing Initiative:**

The “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 initiative, which provides free COVID-19 testing in 35 locations across the Commonwealth and was set to close on June 30th, has been extended through September 30, 2021.

Building on Massachusetts’ nation-leading COVID-19 testing program, state-sponsored testing will continue to be available to all Massachusetts residents at no cost to them through September 30, 2021. Testing is one of the important public health tools, in addition to contact tracing, complying with public health mitigation measures and getting vaccinated, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



Since the state began this free virus testing in July 2020, more than 2.3 million tests have been conducted at “Stop the Spread” locations as of March 3, 2021. Meanwhile, the total number of COVID-19 tests conducted state-wide at all testing providers since the pandemic began is more than 22 million.

The Stop the Spread initiative is a data-driven effort to reduce the prevalence of COVID-19 in communities across the Commonwealth. All state residents may visit the locations even if they do not reside in the town or city where the testing is being conducted.

The statewide 7-day average of percent positivity for COVID-19 of individuals tested as reported on Monday, May 10th, was 1.26%. Residents of the state may visit the following website to find testing locations: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>. Additional information about COVID-19 testing, including why testing is important and what you should do if your test is positive, can be found at [www.mass.gov/GetTested](https://www.mass.gov/GetTested).

## *Important Updates*

### **Department of Public Health Updates:**

- On Wednesday, the Public Health Council released the latest findings from the DPH Community Impact Survey. The survey results found Black, Asian American, and Multiracial respondents experienced discrimination 12x times more than White respondents during the pandemic. Read the latest findings from the DPH Community Impact Survey: <http://mass.gov/CovidSurvey>
- Despite intensive public health efforts, opioid-related overdose deaths rose by 5 percent in 2020, greatly exacerbated by the pandemic. Read the DPH press release: <http://ow.ly/dNq150EKXdE>
- DPH Epidemiology Line handled 283 COVID-19 calls and 78 non-COVID-19 calls for a total of 361 calls from 5/3 through 5/9.
- As of 5/11, the [Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps](#) has 314 volunteers supporting 36 local boards of health.
- MA211 received 3,126 calls from Monday 5/3 through Sunday 5/9 for a new total of 298,588.
- DPH issued [updated Comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Guidance](#).
- DPH issued updated BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Product Expiry Dates.
- All HMCC Regions are at Tier 2 status, in accordance with the [DPH COVID-19 Resurgence Planning and Response Guidance for Acute Care Hospitals](#). DPH and the COVID-19 Command Center will continue to work closely with all regions to monitor hospital capacity statewide.

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- There are currently 3 Rapid Response Teams, comprised of nursing staff, deployed to nursing homes across the Commonwealth. Teams are also administering second doses of Pfizer vaccine to nursing and rest home residents as well as Homebound individuals. The team resumed vaccinations on Tuesday, April 26, 2021, using Janssen vaccine at nursing homes and rest homes that have a high number of residents that are unvaccinated while awaiting further recommendations.

**Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Updates:**

**Mass Care**

- One state contracted isolation/recovery hotel in the City of Everett continues to receive client placements. 33 individuals are currently housed in the program.
  - Top 5 referring cities:
    - Boston (458)
    - Worcester (200)
    - Springfield (196)
    - Quincy (130)
    - Cambridge (124)
  - To date, a total of 2,434 residents have been placed in these hotels for safe isolation and recovery.

**Community Food Box Program Update 5/7-5/13:**

MEMA is partnering with the Salvation Army, and a vendor, to bring in shelf-stable food boxes each week to support communities in their effort to deliver food to individuals and families in quarantine and isolation who require assistance accessing food. The final delivery of food boxes to MEMA’s State Logistics Warehouse was scheduled for April 30. Distribution of food boxes will continue until inventory is depleted. Distribution of food boxes is coordinated between MEMA and communities in need. The table below reflects the current food box inventory and number of food boxes distributed to communities during the weekly reporting period (data is updated every Friday).

<b>Total Number of Food Boxes in MEMA’s Inventory</b>	<b>Total Number of Food Boxes Distributed to One or More Local Communities During the Reporting Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Communities that Received Food Boxes During the Reporting Period</b>
5,801	370	5

**Grocery Card Distribution Program Update 5/7-5/13:**

As an extension of the isolation and quarantine food program, the Food Security Task Force has begun coordinating the distribution of grocery cards in addition to or in lieu of shelf-stable food boxes. These grocery cards allow individuals to have greater flexibility of food options and help accommodate unique dietary needs and cultural food preferences.

<b>Store Name</b>	<b>Number of Cards Distributed During the Reporting Period</b>	<b>Total Value of Cards</b>
Stop & Shop	15	\$1,500
Market Basket	65	\$3,250
<b>Total Number of Communities Receiving Cards: 2</b>		



# COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

## Logistics (including Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies)

- 95 orders prepared for pickup or delivery from the MEMA State Logistics Warehouse from 5/7 – 5/13.
  - As part of these orders, Mass Vaccination Sites, MDPH Community Health Centers, and Command Center Vaccine Equity Programs are being supported
  - Orders are also being processed to support Housing Authorities and School Districts across the Commonwealth
- MDPH coordinated 12 deliveries to health care entities on Tuesday (5/11) (3 PPE, 2 testing supplies and 7 BinaxNOW kits); 11 deliveries were made on Thursday (5/13) (8 BinaxNOW kits, 1 vaccine supplies and 2 surplus) and 7 deliveries have been scheduled for Friday (5/14) (6 BinaxNOW kits and 1 surplus supplies).

## Disaster Recovery

On March 27, 2020, the President [declared](#) a Major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through this declaration, federal aid will be made available to cities and towns, state agencies, and certain non-profits in all Massachusetts counties to help pay for emergency protective measures (response costs) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. MEMA’s Recovery Unit has developed a [webpage](#) with information and guidance on, but not limited to, disaster declaration, eligibility criteria, and the application process. Highlights from the Disaster Recovery process include the following:

Data as of: 5/7/2021

<b>MEMA COVID-19 EXECUTIVE DASHBOARD</b>			
<b>AGGREGATE PROGRAM VIEW</b>			
<small>Note: Financial data for pre-submission projects reflect 100% federal cost share while submitted projects continue to reflect 75% federal cost share. The remaining 25% federal cost share for submitted projects will be reported as FEMA adjusts cost share for these projects on a rolling basis. In addition, figures do not include MEMA management cost allowance.</small>			
Overall (Best Available Estimate)	Submitted (Eligibility & Cost Review)	Approved* (by FEMA)	Paid (by MEMA)
\$1.5B +\$9.32M	\$1.2B +\$1.30M	\$989.4M +\$323.78M	\$385.0M +\$85.34M
1,046 Projects +19	723 Projects +11	251 Projects +13	164 Projects +8
Approved Applicants: 659			

- FEMA RPA Requests: 667
- Technical Assistant Requests: 524
- Providing technical assistance to ensure that all applicants meet the May 15th Public Assistance equity reporting deadline.
- Preparing required Non-Congregate Sheltering report for submission to FEMA by 5/15.
- New project obligations (2) Including EOPSS-Consulting Support: \$502,678.10

## **FEMA Funeral Assistance as of 5/5/21**

FEMA began processing applications for funeral assistance starting on 4/12 ([learn more here](#)).

State	Registrations	In Process	Eligible	Award Amount	Withdrawn	Ineligible
MA	3,913	3,826	86	\$585,713.29	0	1

# COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

## Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Update:

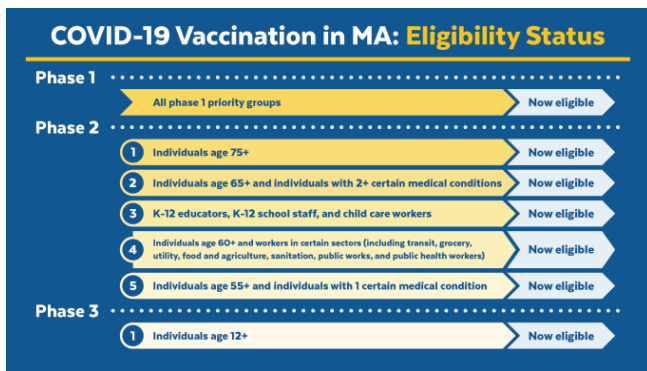
**NOTE:** The Soldiers' Homes are continuing regular reporting on the status of COVID-19 cases at the facilities but are transitioning the weekly reporting to the EOHHS State Facility Dashboard which is published every Wednesday afternoon. Cases will be reported weekly each Wednesday [on this dashboard](#).

## Communications Resources

### New COVID-19 vaccination for youth ages 12+

Youth ages 12+ can now be vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

- For details, including information on parental consent, and FAQs, visit [mass.gov/vaccinesforYOUTH](https://mass.gov/vaccinesforYOUTH).
- Youth age 12 and above may be preregistered beginning today at <http://VaccineSignup.mass.gov>.
- Download our [youth-related graphics](#) for your messaging.



**The COVID-19 Vaccine & YOUTH**  
Information for teens & young adults about vaccine eligibility in MA

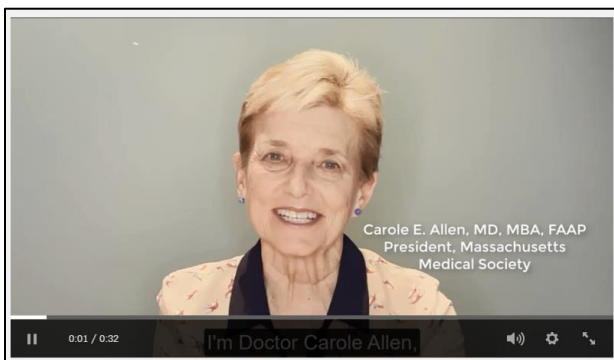
Vaccine eligibility criteria for youth

- Youth 12+ can receive the Pfizer vaccine
- Youth 18+ can receive the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccines
- Youth living in emergency shelter programs including homeless or domestic violence shelters are eligible

Learn more about your vaccine eligibility at [mass.gov/vaccinesforYOUTH](https://mass.gov/vaccinesforYOUTH)

### New Trusted Sources PSAs

We asked Dr. Carole Allen, newly-elected Massachusetts Medical Society president, to record a [short video](#) urging parents to get their children vaccinated. You can use the 30 second video in your messaging. Also, please share [this link](#) of Dr. Lloyd Fisher, President of the Mass Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and his daughter Caroline, who took part in the vaccine trials. On social, please use the hashtag #TrustTheFacts.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

## Best Practices for Community and Faith-based Organizations

This [two-page overview](#) of strategies from the CDC can be used to ensure access, cultural appropriateness, language sensitivity, community involvement, and support.

### Reminder Fliers, posters, graphics: COVID-19 vaccine need-to-know details

These materials explain the key details about the COVID-19 vaccines, including that the vaccines are safe, free, and that two doses may be required. Download and share [these materials](#) in your community.

## Increasing COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Among Members of Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities

This CDC [guide](#) includes strategies, interventions, and ready-made messages and materials, as well as information on how to connect with others to increase COVID-19 vaccination confidence and access in racial and ethnic minority communities.



## Guidance for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

- Until more people are vaccinated, prevention measures will be necessary, even for individuals fully vaccinated. Review MA's [Guidance for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#).

## CDC 'plain language' materials in multiple languages

- [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

## Other Public Messaging Resources for Communities:

The COVID-19 Command Center and DPH have produced many communication resources aimed at helping communities inform and educate residents on recent executive orders and guidance related to COVID-19.

- [Trust the Facts, Get the Vax Campaign Materials | Mass.gov](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Posters | Mass.gov](#)
- [Preparing for your COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment flier | Mass.gov](#)
- [Guide to hosting a forum on the COVID-19 Vaccine | Mass.gov](#)

## Resources

### MassSupport

MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and managed in partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center, a program of Riverside Community Care. Contact MassSupport by phone at **888-215-4920** or by email at [MassSupport@riversidecc.org](mailto:MassSupport@riversidecc.org)

### Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center

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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.

### Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) now reports on the number of positive COVID-19 cases as reported to the DESE by school districts (including charter schools), collaboratives, and approved special education schools. The data only represents what has been reported to DESE. For more information and to view the report people can visit: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/positive-cases/>

### COVID-19 Test Site Locator

MEMA, in conjunction with the COVID-19 Command Center, has developed an [interactive tool](#) that shows the locations of COVID-19 testing sites around the Commonwealth.

### 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 daily as enhancements are continuously being added.

Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here](#).

## *Stay Informed*

- Get information from trusted sources. Get notified by text, email, or phone call in your preferred language. Visit <https://member.everbridge.net/index/406686158291020/#/signup> to sign-up for **AlertsMA** for the latest news on the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19
- 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.

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## *How to Help Out*

- [Donate](#) to organizations supported by the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund

### **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](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more. 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](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org)