

Thursday, May 27, 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, 6/3/21.



On Tuesday, Governor Baker filed legislation to extend certain emergency measures that are set to expire on June 15 when the State of Emergency will be rescinded. (Story below)

In This Week's Report:

- Latest Data: Public Health & Vaccine Data Update
- Week in Review: Key State Actions
 - Governor Files Legislation to Extend Certain COVID-19 Emergency Measures
 - Vaccine Preregistration System Closing
 - Expansion of Homebound Vaccination Program Announced
 - Federal Government Completes COVID-19 Vaccination Mission at the Hynes Convention Center
 - Administration Teams Up with Dunkin' and Museum of Science with Initiatives to Vaccinate Massachusetts
 - Massachusetts Approved to Provide P-EBT for Families through Summer 2021
 - DPH, Emergency Management, and Disaster Recovery Updates
 - Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes 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 5/27**

660,513 Total Confirmed Cases ([click here for more information](#))

17,491 Deaths among confirmed cases

22,823,577 tests for the virus conducted to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals, and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 5/27**

Case numbers are updated daily.

Total Cases Reported to CDC:

33,018,965 Total Cases

589,547 Deaths

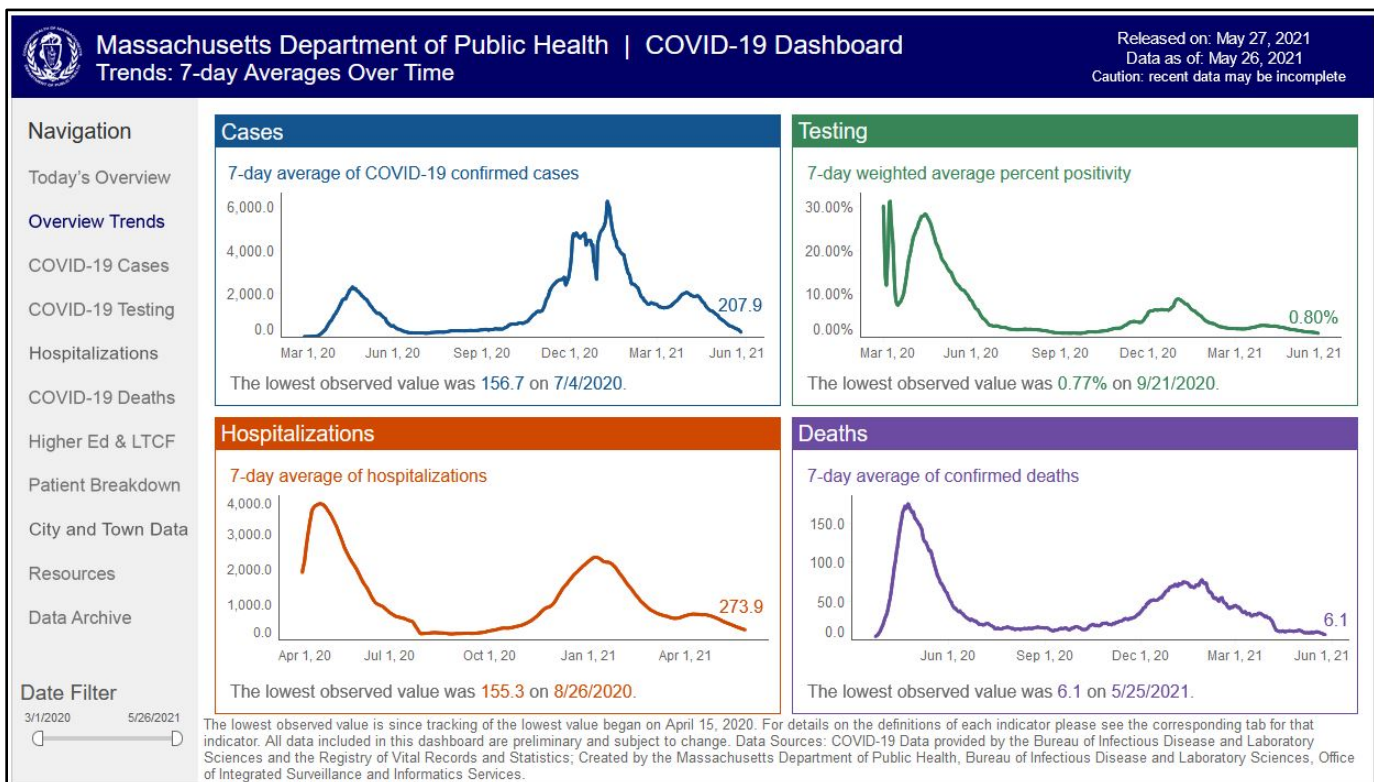
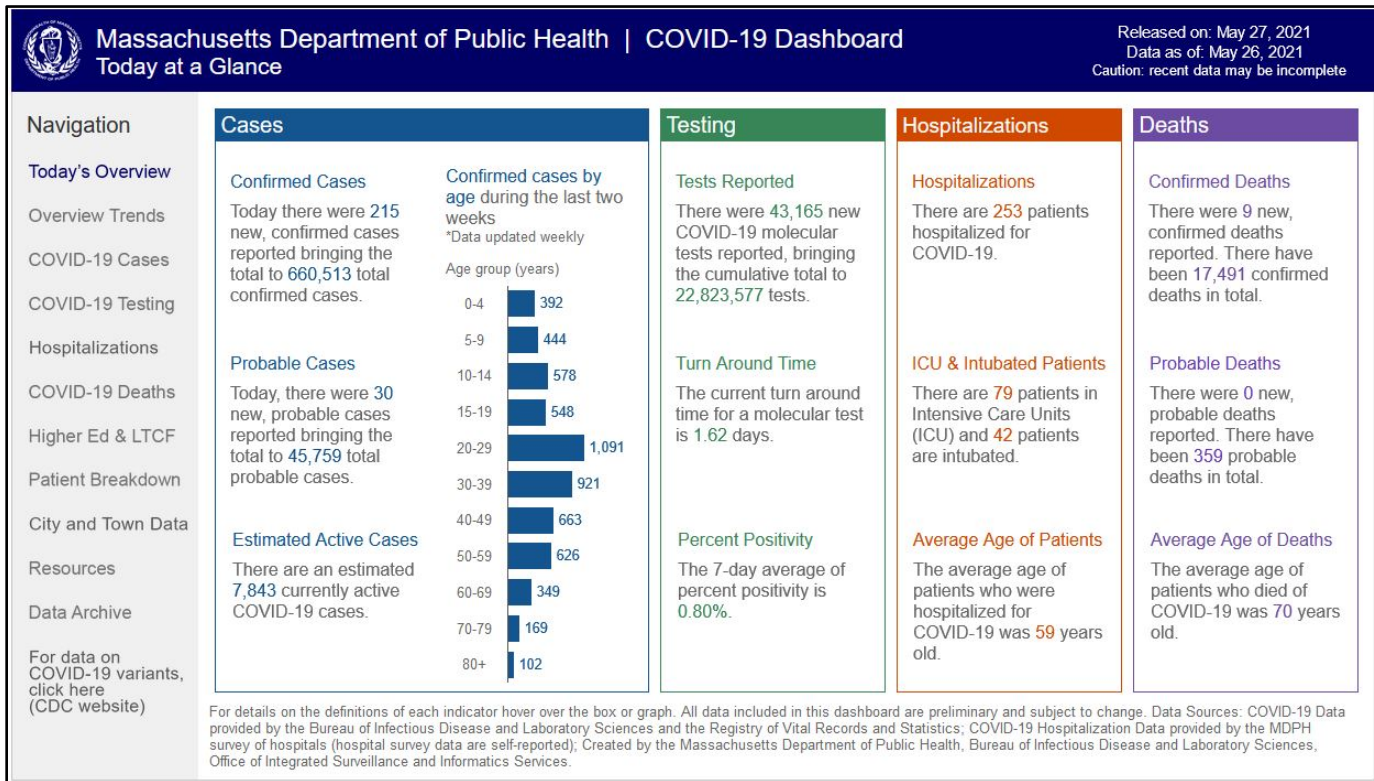
57 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, American Samoa, and US V.I.)



Mass.Gov/CovidVaccine

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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, 5/27. 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](#).

	5/21	5/22	5/23	5/24	5/25	5/26	5/27
DOSES SHIPPED							
Doses Shipped to MA Providers (MIIS)*	5,656,555	5,671,135	5,671,135	5,671,135	5,700,215	5,700,315	5,706,325
Doses Shipped to Pharmacies and Directly by the Federal Government - Including FPPP Providers (Tiberius)	3,135,145	3,165,565	3,165,565	3,170,885	3,193,535	3,280,385	3,337,315
Grand Total Shipped to MA	8,791,700	8,836,700	8,836,700	8,842,020	8,893,750	8,980,700	9,043,640
DOSES ADMINISTERED (MIIS)*							
1st Moderna or Pfizer Doses Administered # of people with at least one dose	4,047,438	4,063,732	4,079,138	4,086,923	4,099,188	4,114,888	4,133,946
2nd Moderna or Pfizer Doses Administered # of people fully vaccinated	3,148,244	3,179,177	3,197,538	3,212,716	3,240,139	3,275,933	3,312,491
Janssen (J&J) Doses Administered (MIIS) # of people fully vaccinated	238,421	239,950	240,703	241,410	242,521	244,142	245,706
Grand Total Doses Administered (MIIS)	7,434,103	7,482,859	7,517,379	7,541,049	7,581,848	7,634,963	7,692,143
Grand Total Fully Vaccinated People with Existing COVID-19 Vaccines**	3,386,665	3,419,127	3,438,241	3,454,126	3,482,660	3,520,075	3,558,197
% of Total Doses Shipped That Have Been Reported as Administered	84.6%	84.7%	85.1%	85.3%	85.2%	85.0%	85.1%

*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

Week in Review: State Actions

Governor Files Legislation to Extend Certain COVID-19 Emergency Measures:

On Tuesday, Governor Baker filed legislation to extend certain emergency measures currently in place via executive orders that are set to expire on June 15 when the State of Emergency will be rescinded. Most restrictions, including limitations placed on businesses, will be rescinded effective May 29 as Massachusetts nears the goal of vaccinating four million residents.

This legislation proposes to extend measures providing for a temporary suspension of certain open meeting law requirements, special permits for expanded outside dining at restaurants, and billing protections for COVID-19 patients. When the State of Emergency ends, these orders will expire, and temporarily extending these measures will allow for time to transition. Extending these measures, which were instituted by executive order, requires legislation.



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

To allow public bodies to safely meet during the pandemic and ensure public access to meetings, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order in March 2020 allowing these bodies to meet quorum requirements even if meetings were held remotely through electronic means, as long as measures were taken to ensure the public had electronic access to the proceedings. The bill filed by Governor Baker will extend these provisions related to the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law until September 1, 2021, which will allow additional time to consider possible permanent changes to the Open Meeting Law to provide for greater flexibility in conducting open meetings through reliance on electronic streaming and similar measures.

The bill will also grant municipalities authority to extend special permits for restaurants offering outdoor dining issued under the State of Emergency through November 29, 2021. Under an Executive Order issued in 2020, municipalities were permitted to use an expedited process to approve temporary permits for new or expanded outdoor dining and alcohol service. Without a legislative extension, special permits granted under the Governor's Order will expire 60 days after the end of the State of Emergency.

The legislation will also extend a protection adopted in an executive order that prohibits medical providers from billing patients who have received COVID-related emergency and inpatient services for charges in excess of costs paid by their insurers. As filed, the protection would extend until January 1, 2022, at which time recently passed federal legislation that included protections for both emergency and non-emergency cases will become effective. Earlier this year, Governor Baker signed legislation establishing surprise billing protections for patients for non-emergency services.

Administration Announces Plans to Close Vaccine Preregistration System:

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced plans to close the Commonwealth's [vaccine preregistration system](#) by the end of May. The COVID-19 Vaccine Finder at [vaxfinder.mass.gov](#) will remain available, with over 900 locations listed across the state.

The preregistration form at [vaccinesignup.mass.gov](#) closed to new submissions on Tuesday, May 25. All remaining people still in the system will be contacted with an opportunity to book appointments before closing out the system on May 31. All remaining people who preregistered will be given an opportunity to book before the system closes.



The Commonwealth's COVID-19 Vaccine Finder at [vaxfinder.mass.gov](#) will remain available. There are over 900 locations available with thousands of appointments in every region of Massachusetts. Users can also find information about no wait, walk-up appointments at select locations, accessibility information, and can plan for their appointment using the MBTA trip planner tool. Users can also filter by type of vaccine offered, to ensure that people under 18 or their parents can search for locations that only offer the Pfizer vaccine. Users can also call 211 to access the Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line for help booking an appointment.

Massachusetts remains a national leader in vaccinations, ranking #1 in the country for first doses and total doses per capita among states with more than 5 million people, and #2 in these categories among all states. The Commonwealth is focusing on a [targeted, community-based approach](#) to reach residents who have not yet received a first dose. There are over 900 locations across the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth [launched the preregistration system on March 12](#) in partnership with the [Google Cloud Team](#). Since then, nearly 2 million people have preregistered and nearly 600,000 appointments have been

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

scheduled. Many residents preregistered to ensure they would have access to an appointment but continued to search elsewhere and in many cases opted out of the system after they found an appointment elsewhere. People who preregistered were contacted via email, text messages, and/or robocalls with the opportunity to book appointments.

The Administration has continuously improved the system, adding locations, and introducing options for people to choose their vaccination location and edit their submission. Today, people are given the option to choose from among 23 mass vaccination and regional collaborative locations when they are contacted to book an appointment through the preregistration system.

Expansion of Homebound Vaccination Program:

Beginning Monday, May 24, the Administration expanded the state's Homebound Vaccination Program to support in-home vaccinations for all eligible residents who are unable to get to a vaccine site. This expansion will support continued vaccination of hard-to-reach populations and supports the Administration's goal to make COVID-19 vaccines readily available.

The Administration [launched](#) the Homebound Vaccination Program on March 29 for individuals who met specific federal criteria, such as requiring significant supports to leave the home for a medical appointment. Beginning May 24, any individual who has trouble getting to a vaccine site is eligible for the homebound program.

Individuals can call [\(833\) 983-0485](tel:8339830485) to register for an in-home vaccination. The registration phone line is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM and has representatives who speak English and Spanish, as well as translation services available in 100+ languages. After registering, individuals will be called within five business days by the state's Homebound Vaccine Provider, Commonwealth Care Alliance, to schedule an appointment. It may take some time to get an appointment, and the quickest way to get vaccinated remains to schedule an appointment at a vaccination site by visiting VaxFinder.mass.gov.

The Homebound Program is primarily using Johnson & Johnson vaccines, a safe and effective vaccine that only requires one visit to an individual's home. For individuals 12-17 years old who are homebound and would need significant support to leave the home to get to a medical appointment, the Homebound Program is offering Pfizer vaccines. Homebound youth are encouraged to register for the Homebound Program by Friday, May 28 to ensure that an in-home vaccination can be scheduled during the month of June.

More information on the Homebound Vaccination Program is available [here](#).

Federal Government Completes COVID-19 Vaccination Mission at the Hynes Convention Center; Site to Remain Open into June:

The Administration announced on Monday that the federal partnership launched this March to expand COVID-19 vaccine doses in the Boston area has successfully concluded after administering over 301,000 doses. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Defense teams at this Community Vaccination Center (CVC) wrapped up their mission on Sunday, May 23. As part of this effort, the Commonwealth received over 6,000 additional doses from the federal government each day to administer at the Hynes Convention Center vaccination site and through mobile clinics.



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

While federal support from FEMA and the Department of Defense has ended, the state-run Hynes vaccination site will continue to operate into June under the continued management of CIC Health. Anyone who has received a first vaccine dose will be able to receive their second dose at the Hynes before the site closes.

"Massachusetts is a national leader in providing COVID-19 vaccines to our residents, and we are grateful for the support of the federal government in this partnership which helped contribute to those efforts," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "On behalf of the Commonwealth, I want to thank the Biden-Harris Administration, FEMA, the U.S. Navy, CIC Health, and the team at the Command Center and MEMA for working collaboratively to make this effort a success."

Region 1 Acting Regional Administrator and Federal Coordination Officer for New England Paul Ford said, "The collaboration between the Commonwealth, its partners and the federal government provided access to the vaccine for all residents of Massachusetts. The staffing of the Community Vaccination Center at the Hynes with DOD and FEMA staff allowed the Commonwealth flexibility to bring the vaccine to some of the hardest hit communities. On behalf of FEMA and our federal partners, we are pleased to have had a role in the success of administering the vaccine. I want to thank the Naval Unit for all the wonderful work they did here."

Since opening on March 31, more than 310,000 doses have been administered at the Hynes with support from 225 Department of Defense U.S. Navy personnel, Cataldo Ambulance, and CIC-Health staff. In addition to bolstering existing efforts at the convention center, this federal support allowed the state to strengthen and expand vaccine equity efforts.

The Hynes site deployed staff for mobile clinics and pop-up vaccination sites to several communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic including Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Fall River, and New Bedford. These efforts were in addition to the Administration's work to expand outreach and other mobile vaccination efforts in disproportionately impacted communities and communities with lower than state average vaccination rates.

Administration Teams Up with Dunkin' and Museum of Science with Initiatives to Vaccinate Massachusetts:

The Administration, in collaboration with the Museum of Science Boston and Dunkin', announced initiatives to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines in the Commonwealth. Massachusetts continues to be a national leader in vaccination rates with over 77% of adults having received at least one dose, and the Administration is supporting additional opportunities to drive vaccine uptake.

Museum of Science Vaccination Clinic

The Museum of Science Boston and CIC Health will host a vaccination clinic for all individuals 12 and older who live, work, or study in Massachusetts on Friday, May 28, from 11AM– 6PM and Saturday, May 29, from 11AM – 4PM.

Visitors receiving a vaccine will be provided free parking and two free tickets to the museum, which can be used for a future date. Live demonstrations from Museum educators, raffles, and other giveaways will be offered to those who come to receive their vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered at this clinic, and another clinic will be held on June 18 & 19 to facilitate second doses.

Vaccine administration will be held in the Atrium outside the Charles Hayden Planetarium and Mugar Omni Theater. Advanced registration



Get Vaccinated at the Museum!

Visit our pop-up vaccination clinic May 28 and 29, in partnership with CiC Health and the Commonwealth. Get 2 free Exhibit Halls passes too!

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

for an appointment is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcomed. Visit <https://www.cic-health.com/mos> to book an appointment.

For details on how to get to the Museum of Science, click [here](#).

Dunkin' Days at the Hynes

In collaboration with the Commonwealth, Dunkin', and CIC Health, Dunkin' Days at the Hynes, a two-day initiative to boost vaccination of all eligible residents in the Commonwealth, will be held on Thursday, May 27 and Friday, May 28 from 11AM to 3PM, and will offer newly vaccinated individuals a free Dunkin' Iced Coffee. All individuals 12 years of age and older who live, work or study in Massachusetts are eligible to receive the vaccine. There is no pre-registration required, and walk-ups are strongly encouraged.



Along with free Dunkin' Iced Coffee, there will be appearances by Dunkin' mascots Icy Joe and Sprinkles, photo ops, and prizes. Five lucky people at the vaccination site each day will also be surprised with **Free Dunkin' Coffee for a Year***.

The Hynes Convention Center, located at 900 Boylston Street in Boston, accepts walk-ins for vaccination as well as those with previously scheduled appointments.

*No purchase necessary. Must be 18+ and live, work, or study in MA. Begins May 27 at 11:00 a.m. ET and ends May 28 at 3:00 p.m. ET. For Official Rules, visit <http://ddsweeps.com/hynes/>

Massachusetts Approved to Provide P-EBT for Families through Summer 2021:

Massachusetts has received federal approval to continue providing Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefits to families through summer 2021. The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) estimates this will provide continued financial assistance for the families of more than 600,000 school-age children and 88,000 children under six in households that get SNAP benefits to buy food as Massachusetts families recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.

P-EBT is a federal program, jointly administered by DTA and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), that promotes increased food security for families whose children receive free or reduced-price school meals through the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The program covers the cost of school meals for students in remote or hybrid learning environments during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 recently allowed states to continue providing P-EBT for families through summer 2021.

In Massachusetts, all students who have received P-EBT will receive a total of \$375 in P-EBT benefits in two equal payments of \$187.50 this summer. The first payment will be issued on July 1 and the second payment will be issued on August 1. Students who graduated in 2020 or have moved out of Massachusetts will not receive P-EBT benefits in the summer.

Families who receive SNAP and have received P-EBT for their children under six years old will also receive two summer P-EBT payments of \$187.50, totaling \$375 for the summer. Payments for these children will be made on July 25 and August 25.

MASSACHUSETTS

P-EBT



1234 5601 2345 6789
MA Cardholder

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

DTA estimates that P-EBT is expected to bring more than \$280 million into the Commonwealth's economy this summer, providing nearly \$250 million for more than 600,000 school-aged children and \$33 million for approximately 88,000 SNAP-enrolled children under the age of six.

Massachusetts [initially launched](#) its P-EBT program in April 2020 when schools closed due to COVID-19, was one of a limited number of states to receive federal approval for [September P-EBT benefits](#) and was [the first state in the nation](#) to receive approval to continue P-EBT through school year 2020-2021. In March 2021, the program was extended to [provide P-EBT benefits for children in child care](#).

Important Updates

Earlier today, Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders announced that after serving as the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health for over 6 years, Commissioner Monica Bharel is stepping down effective June 18. Appointed by Governor Baker in 2015, the Commissioner has steered the Department of Public Health through significant public health challenges including the opioid epidemic, vaping associated lung disease, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and the COVID-19 pandemic. The longest serving Commissioner of Public Health since 1997, Commissioner Bharel brought a health equity lens to all of the Department's work.



[Read the full announcement here.](#)

Department of Public Health Updates:

- Our Vaccine Equity Initiative is encouraging residents to get vaccinated – sharing information about local clinics and mobile vans and walk-in appointments. A [new Highlights page](#) on the Vaccine Equity website includes photos, news clips and details about our community outreach efforts.
- DPH Epidemiology Line handled 180 COVID-19 calls and 72 non-COVID-19 calls for a total of 252 calls from 5/17 through 5/23.
- DPH issued guidance to Hospital-based Providers and Infection Preventionists regarding the [Reporting of Vaccine Breakthrough COVID-19 Cases Resulting in Hospitalization or Death](#).
- DPH issued a Communication to Hospital Emergency Departments Regarding Use of Janssen/J&J Vaccine.
- DPH shared with healthcare providers a message from the CDC regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Safety (myocarditis/pericarditis).
- DPH issued guidance for hospitals regarding [Vaccination of Admitted Patients](#).
- DPH issued updated guidance for long-term care facilities regarding [BinaxNOW Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing](#).
- DPH issued updated guidance for long-term care facilities regarding [Caring for Long-Term Care Residents during the COVID-19 Emergency](#).
- DPH shared with healthcare providers an [announcement](#) from HHS ASPR indicating that the distribution of Bamlanivimab/etesevimab to Massachusetts has been paused and that the REGEN-COV product should be used as an alternative.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

- All HMCC Regions remain at Tier 1 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.
- 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 is also administering 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. 12 individuals are currently housed in the program.
 - Top 5 referring cities:
 - Boston (463)
 - Worcester (200)
 - Springfield (197)
 - Quincy (130)
 - Brockton (124)
 - To date, a total of 2,498 residents have been placed in these hotels for safe isolation and recovery.

Community Food Box Program Update 5/21-5/27:

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).

Total Number of Food Boxes in MEMA's Inventory	Total Number of Food Boxes Distributed to One or More Local Communities During the Reporting Period	Total Number of Communities that Received Food Boxes During the Reporting Period
4,381	1,420	7

Grocery Card Distribution Program Update 5/21-5/27:

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.

Store Name	Number of Cards Distributed During the Reporting Period	Total Value of Cards
Stop & Shop	15	\$1,500
Big Y	100	\$5,000
Total Number of Communities Receiving Cards: 2		

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

Logistics (including Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies)

- 70 orders prepared for pickup or delivery from the MEMA State Logistics Warehouse from 5/21-5/27.
 - 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 School Districts across the Commonwealth.
- MDPH coordinated 53 deliveries to health care entities on Tuesday (5/25) (4 PPE, 26 BinaxNOW kits and 23 BinaxNOW At-Home kits); 26 deliveries were made on Wednesday (5/26) (26 Surplus Supplies) 27 deliveries were made on Thursday (5/27) (3 PPE, 20 BinaxNOW kits and 4 BinaxNOW At-Home kits) and 19 deliveries have been scheduled for Friday (5/28) (8 BinaxNOW kits and 11 BinaxNOW At-Home kits).

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: 5/21/2021			
MEMA COVID-19 EXECUTIVE DASHBOARD			
AGGREGATE PROGRAM VIEW			
<i>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.</i>			
Overall (Best Available Estimate)	Submitted (Eligibility & Cost Review)	Approved* (by FEMA)	Paid (by MEMA)
\$1.5B +\$9.25M	\$1.2B +\$4.85M	\$689.0M -\$302.33M	\$404.7M +\$3.17M
1,077 Projects +16	748 Projects +12	265 Projects +9	199 Projects +26
Approved Applicants: 661			

- FEMA RPA Requests: 674
- Technical Assistant Requests: 529
- On May 25th FEMA extended the period of authorization for emergency feeding under major disaster declaration FEMA-4496-DR-MA through June 26, 2021 or the end of the Public Health Emergency (whichever is sooner).
- Distributing survey to collect data on non-congregate sheltering operations for the 6/14/21 FEMA reporting period.
- A COVID-19 Safe Opening & Operation webinar was held on 5/25. All presentation materials have been added to the MEMA website ([link](#)). Two additional offerings of the webinar are scheduled in June. Registration information is available on the MEMA website [here](#).
- New project obligations (13): \$2,402,031.50

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

FEMA Funeral Assistance as of 5/26/21

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

State	Registrations	In Process	Eligible	Award Amount	Withdrawn	Ineligible
MA	4,324	4,320	155	\$1,062,096.87	0	4

Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes Update:

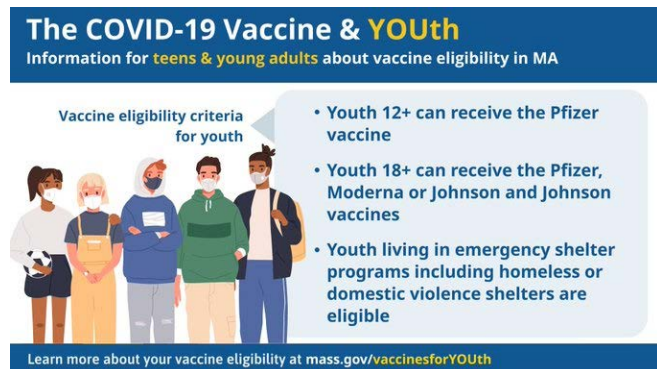
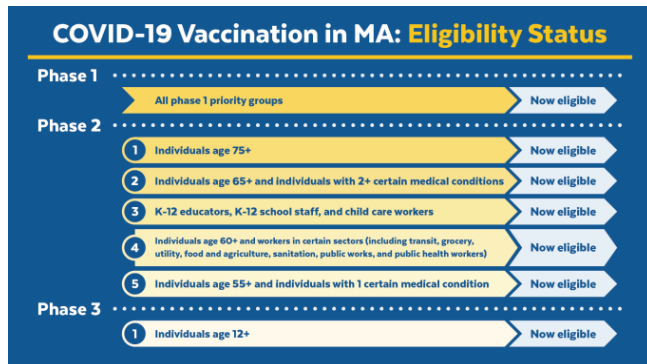
NOTE: The Soldiers' Homes are continuing regular reporting on the status of COVID-19 cases at the facilities but are transitioning the weekly reporting to the EOHHS State Facility Dashboard which is published every Wednesday afternoon. Cases will be reported weekly each Wednesday [on this dashboard](#).

Communications Resources

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.
- Youth age 12 and above may be preregistered at <http://VaccineSignup.mass.gov>.
- Download our [youth-related graphics](#) for your messaging.



Trusted Sources PSAs

Please [share this link](#) of Dr. Robyn Cohen (right), a pediatric pulmonologist at Boston Medical Center, talking about the importance of COVID-19 vaccine for young people – including for her own 12 and 15 year-old kids! On social, please use the hashtag **#TrustTheFacts**.

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.

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



COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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.

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@riversideecc.org

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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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.

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