Saturday, March 28, 2020

COVID-19 Response Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

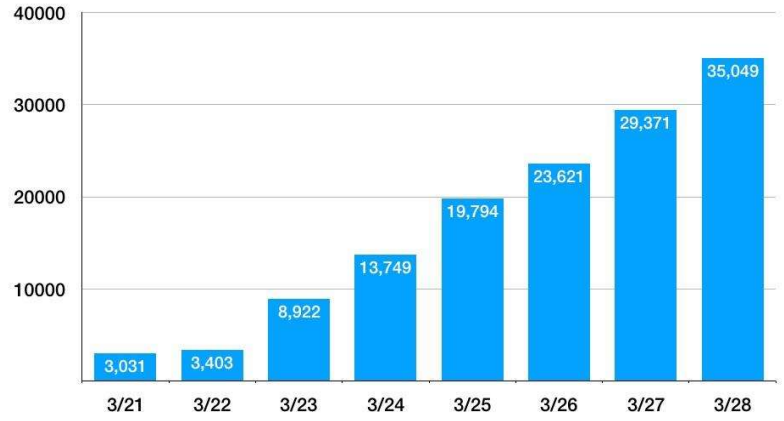
State Actions in Today's Report:

- New Case Information released (link in sidebar)
- Federal Disaster Declaration for COVID-19 Response
- Nursing Facility Surge Capacity Planning
- Governor Baker, First Lady Baker Visit Red Cross, Donate Blood

Helpful Links:

- Mass.Gov/covid19
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Unemployment & COVID-19
- Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal
- Emergency Childcare Site
- MBTA.com/covid19
- Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance

One Week Testing Snapshot: Growth in Total Patients Tested 3/21-3/28



Background on the Command Center:

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker declared a State of Emergency to support the Commonwealth's response to coronavirus.

On March 14, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the creation of a new COVID-19 Response Command Center. Secretary Marylou Sudders is leading the cross-secretariat response to the outbreak. The Command Center is the Commonwealth's single point of strategic decision making and coordination for the Administration's comprehensive COVID-19 response.

In support of the Command Center, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham has activated to Level 2 (Partial Activation). In addition, MEMA's Regional EOCs in Tewksbury, New Bedford, and Agawam have also been partially activated to support local communities.

Situation in Numbers

Massachusetts current as of 3/28

4,257 Total Cases (click for more information)

44 Deaths

35,049 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States current as of 3/27

Case numbers are updated regularly at noon Mondays through Fridays.

Total Cases Reported to CDC*:

**CDC updates national numbers Mon.-Fri. by 4pm. Incudes Confirmed & Presumptive Cases.*

85,536 Total Cases
712 Travel-Related
1,326 Close Contact
83,318 Under Investigation
54 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases (50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and US V.I.)

Social Distancing Basics:

- ✓ Call/Facetime/online chat with friends and loved ones.

If you go out:

- ✓ Avoid crowds
- ✓ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ✓ Don't shake hands or hug

State Actions Today

Federal Disaster Declaration for COVID-19 Response (News Release)
In response to Governor Charlie Baker's request for federal disaster assistance, the White House and FEMA announced today that the President has issued a Major Disaster Declaration that will make federal disaster assistance available beyond what was included in the Emergency Declaration declared by President Trump on March 13, 2020.

Public Assistance Program: Under FEMA's Public Assistance Program within the Major Disaster Declaration, affected local governments, state agencies and certain private non-profit organizations statewide will be reimbursed for 75% of their costs associated with response and emergency protective measures. The eligible emergency protective measures include non-congregate isolation and quarantine costs for homeless individuals and families as well as first responders as well as other types of properly documented costs.

Individual Assistance Program: Under FEMA's Individual Assistance Program within the Major Disaster Declaration, Crisis Counseling Assistance will provide funding for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health to assist individuals and families in recovering from the psychological effects of the COVID -19 outbreak through electronic phone and chat technology.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will provide webinars and other information about the process for applying for the Public Assistance Program to municipal and state officials and eligible non-profits. See here for more information.

Nursing Facility Surge Capacity Planning: The Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Command Center is establishing dedicated skilled nursing facilities to care for individuals infected with COVID-19 as part of its ongoing actions to prepare the Massachusetts' health care system for individuals who will need medical care as one mechanism to relieve pressure on hospitals and maintain acute care capacity for patients who are critically ill. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and appropriate for skilled nursing level of care will be transferred to designated nursing homes, such as Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center in Worcester. *Read the **COVID-19 Dedicated Nursing Facility Letter**.*

Additional State Agency Updates Today:

State Emergency Operations Center: Emergency Services Branch
***CVS Shrewsbury, MA COVID-19 Testing Site**:* The testing site has switched to **ONLY** testing symptomatic first responders and Health Care workers. CVS in Shrewsbury has established a call center with hours of operations from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm seven days a week. The number for the call center is (401)-374-6777. Contacting the call center is the best way for an individual meeting the below criteria to make an appointment.

Testing Requirements For CVS Shrewsbury, MA COVID-19 Testing: The criteria for testing has been updated. First Responders and Health Care workers are now required to have **ONE** of the following symptoms:

- Cough;
- Difficulty breathing;
- Shortness of breath;
- Sore throat; or
- Fever (99.4 or higher).

Other Important Information

***Governor, First Lady Visit Red Cross*:** Governor Baker and First Lady Lauren Baker visited the American Red Cross of Massachusetts headquarters in Dedham this morning to urge residents to donate blood. The Red Cross is facing a critical shortage of blood products due to cancellations of blood drives across the Commonwealth because of implementation of necessary prevention and mitigation actions during COVID-19 outbreak. The Governor has deemed "Blood and plasma donors and the employees of the organizations that operate and manage related activities" as an essential service.

Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). To schedule a new blood drive contact Bill Forsyth at (617) 699-3808 or email William.Forsyth@redcross.org.

Buoy Health Care Tool

The Baker-Polito Administration launched the Buoy Health's online resource for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the next appropriate health care resource. This tool does not replace emergency medical care, but it may be used as a support for residents during the COVID-19 outbreak to connect them with appropriate health care resources if they display coronavirus symptoms. Buoy Health's online 24/7 tool is free for Massachusetts residents and uses current COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Health Care Professional Volunteers

To support ongoing COVID-19 emergency response efforts, the Baker-Polito Administration has partnered with the Massachusetts Medical Society to match volunteers with our communities and health care providers based on skillsets and need. There is an immediate need for respiratory therapists and public health nurses, and the administration is asking health care professionals interested in volunteering to sign up at **MAResponds.org**.

Stay Informed

- Get information from trusted sources. Visit https://www.mass.gov/covid19 for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results.
- Call 2-1-1 with questions
- Text the keyword **COVIDMA to 888-777** to receive notifications to your phone
- Take care of your emotional health and help others do the same. If you need emotional support during these stressful times:
    - Call 2-1-1 and choose the "CALL2TALK" option.
    - Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
    - The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.

Communications Resources:

- New DPH Flyer/Infographic on reducing stress & coping with fear of COVID-19
- New DMH resources on maintaining Emotional Health & Well-Being
- New Social Distancing (youth and general) infographic released on website.
- Social Distancing messages are now on billboards and will soon be available on public transit. They are also now translated into multiple languages.
- MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) visual tool for communicating with hard of hearing and Deaf individuals.

COVID-2019 infographic for posting in all public places: https://www.mass.gov/doc/stop-the-spread-of-germs-respiratory-diseases-like-flu-and-covid-19/download

Social media – follow and retweet DPH on Twitter @MassDPH, updated several times per day.