

Friday, May 22, 2020

COVID-19 Command Center

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Situation Update

The Command Center Situation Report is issued Monday-Friday.

State Actions in Today's Report:

- Daily Case Update (link in sidebar)
- Governor Baker Provides Daily Update in Lawrence
- High School Virtual Commencement
- SEOC Resource Requests
- Virtual Memorial Day Observances Continue
- Update on Mobile Testing Numbers
- Update on Holyoke and Chelsea Soldiers' Homes



Helpful Links:

- [Jobs Available to Assist Long Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Get Involved: Community Contact Tracing Collaborative](#)
- [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 5/22**

90,889 Total Cases ([click here for more information](#))

6,228 Deaths

511,644 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

United States **Last Updated 5/22**

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:

1,571,617 Total Cases

94,150 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.

State Actions Today

Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera, President and CEO of Lawrence General Hospital Deb Wilson, and Senator Barry Finegold in the city of Lawrence for today's COVID-19 response update. ([See video here](#)).

The Governor provided his regular update on testing, hospitalizations, and spoke on the partnership between Lawrence General Hospital and the City to test 1,000 residents per day. Mayor Rivera announced that his administration was investing \$1,000,000 towards the effort. [Lawrence General Hospital](#) chief, Deb Wilson announced that the hospital will operationalize the testing site with partners including Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, which will lead contact tracing with Partners In Health, and Mass General Brigham.

All speakers at today's press conference emphasized the need for residents to remain vigilant about public health measures to stop the spread of the virus, including face coverings, physical distancing, and hand hygiene.

Daily Update on Testing, Hospitalizations, and PPE Distribution

Testing:

- Yesterday (May 21th) approximately 11,000 new tests were reported in Massachusetts. Over 500,000 total tests have been completed to date.
 - Yesterday's 7-day weighted average of positive test rate was 9%. Positive test rates have been around 10% for the past week.

Hospitalizations and Capacity:

- As of May 21st, the number of hospitalizations continues to trend downward.
- 2,396 individuals are reported hospitalized.

Personal Protective Equipment:

- To date, the Commonwealth has delivered over 11.8 million pieces of PPE; this includes masks, gloves, gowns, and ventilators distributed to health care workers, first responders and others.
- The Command Center continues to aggressively pursue all supply chain avenues.

MA COVID-19 Test Site Locator

MEMA, in coordination with the COVID-19 Command Center, has launched a [website](#) featuring an interactive map with information about COVID-19 test sites in Massachusetts, including contact information, address, hours of operation, website link, type of site, insurance coverage, and other important information. It also includes a downloadable full list of test sites.

COVID-19 Public Health Data

The COVID-19 Command Center will include in the DPH daily Dashboard 6 key public health indicators and trend data. Before and during reopening, these metrics must continue to show progress. The Department of Public Health continues to make available the underlying data for download. **City and town case data are published weekly each Wednesday.** ([Find the Data Files Here](#)). Key data reflected in today's report is provided below:

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - **Friday, May 22, 2020**

Dashboard of Public Health Indicators

Starting on May 18, the COVID-19 Command Center will give updates on six key public health indicators. Before and during reopening, these metrics must continue to show progress.

Below is the status as of 5/18/2020. Status will be updated weekly or as metrics indicate.

Indicator	Measure	Status
1	COVID-19 positive test rate	●
2	Number of individuals who died from COVID-19	●
3	Number of patients with COVID-19 in hospitals	●
4	Healthcare system readiness	●
5	Testing capacity	●
6	Contact tracing capabilities	●

Legend

- Positive trend
- In progress
- Negative trend

Newly Reported Cases Today

805

Confirmed Cases

90,889

Newly Reported Deaths Today

80

Deaths of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

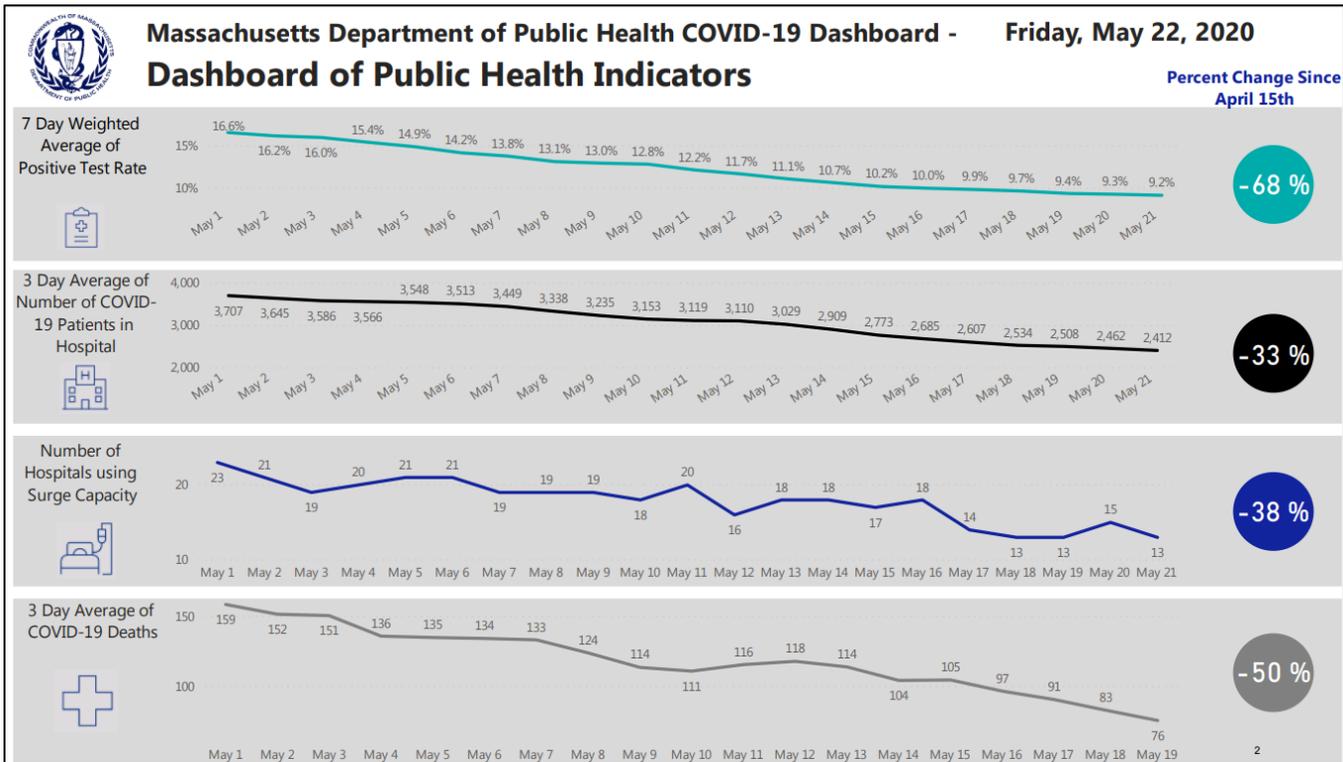
6,228

New Tests Reported Today

10,158

Total Tests Performed

511,644



Important Updates

High School Virtual Commencement

In partnership with WGBH, Governor Charlie Baker will deliver a commencement address to the Class of 2020 as part of a celebration for graduating seniors from 668 public and private schools across the Commonwealth, to be aired in a **special broadcast at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.**

Massachusetts Commencement 2020 will feature congratulatory remarks from Jason and Devin McCourty of the New England Patriots, members of the Red Sox and the Boston Celtics, and a number of celebrities with Massachusetts ties, including singer Rachel Platten, actor Steve Carell and more. In a special premiere performance, members of the legendary Boston Pops Orchestra, with Keith Lockhart conducting, will provide the traditional graduation march 'Pomp and Circumstance' for the ceremony. Students from around the Commonwealth will give valedictorian-type speeches to their classmates.

WGBH will broadcast the program, Massachusetts Commencement 2020, across the Commonwealth, on WGBH 2 in Greater Boston, and on its partner station WGBY/New England Public Media in western Massachusetts. Both stations will stream the program on their website and social media platforms. WGBH also will make the program available to other television stations in Massachusetts, including community access channels.

The student remarks for the program were prepared in collaboration with 826 Boston, a nonprofit youth writing and publishing organization.

State Emergency Operations Center Resource Requests

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham has received over 4,400 resource requests since March 12th.

These requests have been for PPE (masks, face shields, safety goggles, gloves, gowns, shoe covers, head covers, thermometers), body bags, cleaning supplies (hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, bleach, alcohol wipes, hand soap), food distribution, tents, signboards, interop channels / communication services, light towers, medical support personnel, security support personnel, logistics support personnel, and testing site support (personnel and supplies). Over 4,200 distributions have been made to date from the State Warehouse in Marlborough. MEMA Regional Offices have distributed over 545,000 KN95 masks to local police and fire departments.

To date, the SEOC has distributed the below supplies:

N95 respirators	128,731
KN95 masks	2,282,631
Surgical masks	1,177,995
Eye Protection	111,344
Gowns/Coveralls, etc.	310,565
Hand Sanitizer	226,178
Sanitizing Wipes	25,093
Spray Disinfectant	30,965
Alcohol Wipes	53,682

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These supplies have been distributed to the following requestors:

# Requestors	1398
Communities / Counties	331
State Agencies	28
Other (water/sewer, light/power, schools, transportation, etc.)	65
Community Services (home health care, non-profits, etc.)	323
Medical Facilities (hospitals, assisted living, health services, etc.)	326
Funeral Homes	239
Shelters	86

Virtual Memorial Day Events Begin in Massachusetts

The Baker-Polito Administration will recognize Memorial Day this year in a virtual format, enabling the Commonwealth to continue to honor members of the military who have sacrificed for our country.

The series of events kicked off yesterday with virtual observances at the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke on Thursday, May 21 and today, Friday, May 22 respectively, [followed by a coordinated statewide lighting of buildings, bridges, flags and parks on Sunday, May 24](#), and concluding with a Memorial Day program that will air on Monday, May 25.



“We are deeply grateful to all service members past and present who bravely served our country, and as we mark Memorial Day, we pay special tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to protect us and ensure our freedom,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “During this difficult time, it is important that we honor and remember them, and share our gratitude and deep respect for their courage.”

“This year we will honor the lives of the brave men and women who died while serving the country in a different, but equally special way,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “These virtual remembrances ensure we pay tribute to the Commonwealth’s military community and our veterans, and we encourage all residents to participate as we honor their service and sacrifice.”

“Memorial Day is sacred for our fellow service members, veterans and families - in particular, Gold Star Families - as we collectively remember those we’ve lost. Freedom is not free, and the eternal valor of our fallen brothers and sisters allows us to live in peace,” **said Veterans’ Services Secretary Francisco Ureña**.

Memorial Day Observances: Schedule for viewing events at the Soldiers’ Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke. All are invited to view these special remembrances.

- ✓ **Friday, May 22 - Holyoke Soldiers’ Home virtual observance was streamed on the [Home’s Facebook page at 5pm Friday](#). The program is available demand <https://www.facebook.com/watch/HolyokeSoldiersHome/>**

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

Onsite Testing

Date	Number of Tests Completed	Unique Facilities Visited
5/22	340	7
Total (as of 5/22)	46,390	437

COVID-19 Cases in Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities (as of 5/22)	
Residents/Healthcare Workers of LTC Facilities	19,305
LTC Facilities Reporting at Least One Case of COVID-19	345
Deaths Reported in LTC Facilities	3,807

Mobile Testing at EOHHS Group Homes & Care Sites (as of 5/22 by Fallon Ambulance Service)

DDS, DMH, DCF and DPH Facilities	
Clients	11,284
Staff	16,100
Total Tests	27,384
Number of Locations	1,766

617-660-5399

NURSING HOME FAMILY RESOURCE LINE

617-660-5399

CALL ANY TIME 9AM-5PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Update

- This evening, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke presented a virtual Memorial Day service, as part of the state's efforts to hold Memorial Day events virtually this year to honor military who have sacrificed for our country, and veterans who have passed in the last year. The virtual observance was streamed on the [Home's Facebook page at 5pm](#). The program will continue to be available for viewing on their [Facebook page](#) following the stream.
- Today, a WWII Air Force resident veteran is celebrating his 103rd birthday today.
- 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. As results are received, veteran residents are being cohorted and further monitored. Recovery units are being identified and readied for residents.
- This week, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home is distributing configured iPads - from the donated iPads generously provided by Brighton Marine -- for veterans at the Home and at the Holyoke Medical Center to use to communicate with families while in-person visits are not available.
 - Regular family communication continues from Holyoke Soldiers' Home staff through video chat, using donated iPads, 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. If a family member requests an update and is **not** the

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health care proxy, the name of the health care proxy will be shared and it will be suggested that the health care proxy should call and request the update.

- The Holyoke Soldiers' Home Clinical Command continues to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, monitoring staffing levels, while bringing on additional management staff for nursing, facilities, and administration staff to build capacity for resuming regular operations and moving to the recovery phase. Additionally, infection control staff is developing plans for dedicated recovery units.
- Governor Charlie Baker has advised flags be lowered to half-staff until the end of the public health emergency at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, as well as the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam and Winchendon due to the fact Military Honors are unavailable during this public health crisis.
- **The total numbers at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home as of Friday May 22:**
 - 90 veteran resident deaths (74 positive, 14 negatives, 1 unknown)
 - Today's update includes the death of 1 veteran resident who had tested negative and was receiving care at the Holyoke Medical Center
 - Testing results of all residents:
 - 77 veteran residents have tested positive
 - 57 veteran residents have tested negative
 - 0 veteran residents have pending tests
 - Resident locations:
 - 104 residents are onsite
 - 30 residents are offsite
 - 29 residents are at a dedicated skilled nursing unit at Holyoke Medical Center
 - 1 resident is receiving acute care offsite
 - 84 employees have tested positive

Chelsea Soldiers' Home Update

- Yesterday evening, the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea presented a virtual Memorial Day service, as part of the state's efforts to hold Memorial Day events virtually this year to honor military who have sacrificed for our country, and veterans who have passed in the last year. The 24 minute program is still available for viewing on the Home's [Facebook page](#).
- Chelsea Clinical Command continues to monitor and enforce staff use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff have been provided PPE core competency training, the entire facility is rounded on daily for infection control quality assurance checks, all units have been provided with educational materials, and there are daily cleanings throughout the facility in addition to frequent terminal cleaning.
- The Chelsea Soldiers' Home clinical command continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including regular coordinating calls with the VA Health Care System. The Home continues to review its infection control and clinical operations with additional experts.
- Veteran residents' health is being monitored and retesting is being conducted for veterans both on- and off-site as clinically appropriate. As results are received, veteran residents are being cohorted and further monitored. Additional isolation space has been identified and is being readied.
- This week, the Soldiers' Home distributed iPads to Veterans who live in the domiciliary - a dormitory independent living style residence. This gift was made possible through a generous donation by Brighton Marine, who donated a total of 200 iPads to keep Veterans connected during this pandemic. iPads have also been deployed throughout the Long Term Care facility.

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- Video visits between veteran residents and their loved ones are continuing with support from the Chelsea Soldiers' Home Social Work team and staff. Families can 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.
- Governor Charlie Baker has advised flags be lowered to half-staff until the end of the public health emergency at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea, Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, as well as the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam and Winchendon due to the fact Military Honors are unavailable during this public health crisis.
- **The total numbers at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home as of Friday May 22:**
 - 39 veteran resident deaths (31 tested positive, 8 tested negative)
 - Today's update includes the death of 1 resident who tested positive and was receiving comfort measures only
 - 36 veteran residents who have tested positive
 - 178 veteran residents who have tested negative
 - 59 staff tested positive

Resources

COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Sites

The Commonwealth's COVID-19 Command Center and MEMA have stood up regional isolation and recovery sites located in hotels across the state.

Providers or individuals from Boston can access isolation sites at Boston Hope or Newton Pavilion by calling (617) 534-5050.

Individuals who do not live in Boston can access Isolation & Recovery Sites in Lexington, Everett, Taunton, Northampton, and Pittsfield by calling (617) 367-5150 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

More information, to include clinical and financial eligibility, can be found [here](#).

Disaster Recovery Information

On March 27, 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.

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.

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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.

All information is sourced from site operators and healthcare providers. Information continues to evolve quickly, so those looking to be tested are encouraged to contact sites prior to arrival. Many sites may also require pre-screening, a referral, and/or an appointment.

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](#)

Short videos:

- [How to Safely Cover Your Face Outside of Home](#)
- [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 \(:30\)](#)

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- [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.](#)
- Get involved with the new Community Tracing Collaborative: [Please click here.](#)
- Donate or sell personal protective equipment: [Please click here.](#)
- Health care facilities can learn more about [requesting personal protective equipment here.](#)
- Apply for Jobs at COVID-19 Temporary Care Sites ([Details 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](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more, and if eligible, sign up to help.

We are also encouraging people who have not had COVID-19 to schedule and keep appointments to donate blood or platelets to ensure a stable blood supply during this pandemic. Donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. 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

Requests for Red Cross Emergency Response

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross (ARC) of Massachusetts is committed to fulfilling our Mission of providing emergency relief to our neighbors following a home fire or other disaster. We have implemented temporary changes to our response protocols. ARC we will be responding to your requests for service with a virtual response and ask your assistance in sharing this information with your Incident Commanders and Dispatch Center personnel.

Notification: Continue to request a response by contacting our long-standing emergency line **800-564-1234**.

When calling: Please have contact information for the head of household for each displaced family unit.

A point of contact from the Fire Department or Emergency Management on-scene that we can coordinate with if needed. Quick assessment as to extent of damage.

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What we will do:

- Contact each head of household by phone or video chat. Open a virtual case for each affected family.
- Arrange for lodging if needed.
- Deliver a Client Assistance Card (financial assistance) to hotel, family member's home, etc.
- Provide Recovery guidance and assistance in the days following the incident.

If a virtual response is not possible, we will send a minimal number of Red Cross volunteers to the scene to orchestrate the virtual intake process. We value our partnership with your department and encourage you to contact us with any questions.