

# Sunday, March 29, 2020

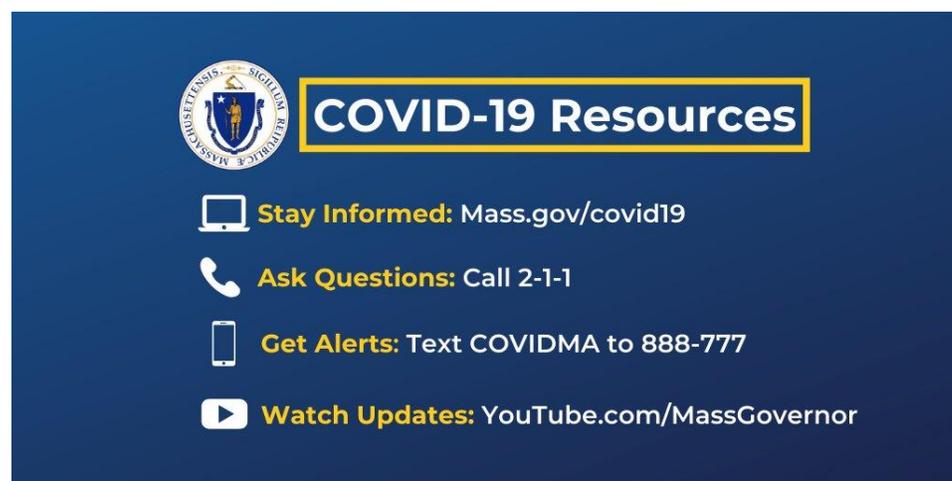
## COVID-19 Response Command Center

### Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

## Situation Update

### State Actions in Today's Report:

- Online Portal Launched for PPE and Volunteers
- New Case Information released (link in sidebar)
- More than 14,200 People Use New Online Symptom Checker Buoy



The graphic features the Massachusetts state seal on the left. To its right, the text "COVID-19 Resources" is enclosed in a yellow-bordered box. Below this, four icons represent different ways to stay informed: a laptop for "Stay Informed: Mass.gov/covid19", a telephone for "Ask Questions: Call 2-1-1", a smartphone for "Get Alerts: Text COVIDMA to 888-777", and a play button for "Watch Updates: YouTube.com/MassGovernor".

### Helpful Links:

- [Mass.Gov/covid19](https://www.mass.gov/covid19)
- [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency](https://www.mass.gov/emergency-management)
- [Unemployment & COVID-19](https://www.mass.gov/unemployment-covid19)
- [Dept. Of Transitional Assistance Online Portal](https://www.mass.gov/transitional-assistance)
- [Emergency Childcare Site](https://www.mass.gov/emergency-childcare)
- [MBTA.com/covid19](https://www.mbta.com/covid19)
- [Complete List of Emergency Orders & Guidance](https://www.mass.gov/emergency-orders)

### 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 3/29*  
4,955 Total Cases ([click for more information](#))

48 Deaths

39,066 patients tested to date by MA State Public Health Laboratory, hospitals and commercial laboratories.

**United States** *current as of 3/29*  
*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:

122,653 Total Cases

2,112 Deaths

55 Jurisdictions Reporting Cases  
(50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, 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*

### **Online Portals for PPE and Volunteers ([News Release](#))**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced an online portal where individuals and companies can easily donate or sell personal protective equipment (PPE) and volunteer to support the COVID-19 outbreak in Massachusetts. This effort will ensure that front line responders get the protective equipment they need to stay and push for more trained volunteers to join the response.

The Commonwealth's [COVID-19 PPE Procurement and Donation Program](#) creates an easy portal allowing companies and organizations to sell or donate protective equipment that is in short supply given the global demands for such items.

By visiting the COVID-19 PPE Procurement and Donation website, businesses and organizations can offer for purchase or donation critically needed personal protective equipment, including:

- N95/N99 masks (respirators)
- Facemasks with integrated shields
- Goggles
- Protective suits/gowns
- Headcovers
- Sanitizing wipes
- Surgical/procedure masks
- Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPR)
- Gloves
- Booties/shoe covers
- Hand sanitizer

The initiative announced today bolsters current efforts to leverage traditional and emergency supply chain channels.

The program also provides an entry point for local manufacturers to get more information on adapting their businesses to produce more equipment here in Massachusetts, an effort being led by the administration's recently established Manufacturing Emergency Response Team.

### **Call for Volunteers:**

To support ongoing COVID-19 emergency response efforts, the Baker-Polito Administration has partnered with the Massachusetts Medical Society to match health and medical 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 [by clicking here](#). **Since launching the initiative, approximately 1,500 people have already registered.**

### **Thousands Use New Online Health Tool Buoy**

On Friday, the Baker-Polito Administration launched the Buoy Health's [online resource](#) for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the appropriate health care resource. **Over the weekend, more than 14,200 people completed online interviews with the tool.** Buoy 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.

## *Other Important Information*

### **CVS Shrewsbury, MA COVID-19 Testing Site:**

The drive-thru testing site located in Shrewsbury has switched to **ONLY** testing symptomatic first responders and Health Care workers. CVS 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).

### **Ongoing Blood Product Shortage**

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](https://www.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](mailto:William.Forsyth@redcross.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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMAND CENTER  
DAILY SITUATION REPORT

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.