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BERKSHIRE COUNTY BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Pittsfield, MA July 20, 2020

Update on COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and Local Boards of Health (LBOH)

Please note: This is a continues to be an evolving situation. There continue to be very few cases in Berkshire County over the past few weeks, almost all related to travel outside the county. Cases continue to rise slowly elsewhere in the Commonwealth, but hospitalizations, percentage testing positive and number of people seeking testing have fallen dramatically. The Commonwealth is currently in Part 1 of Phase 3 of reopening. BCBOHA will continue to provide updates and coordinate public messaging on the situation on a regular basis, currently every other week (down from once a week). Please share this information with your other municipal officials, boards and departments.

Latest News:

Reopening Phase III

On July 2, Governor Baker announced that Phase 3, Step 1 would commence on Monday, July 6, 2020.

Recreational Camps for Children

The guidance for children's camps was updated on July 20, 2020. Changes allow for groups of up to 25 individuals, including both campers and counselors. Personal equipment may now be shared, with appropriate disinfection between users, if necessary. Offsite pools, beaches and playgrounds may now be used in accordance with guidance and if scheduled to avoid interaction with other groups. Limited transportation may be offered. Residential camps are not allowed to open until Phase 4, which will not be this summer. Camp guidelines from EEC may be accessed [here](#). EEA guidance on outdoor recreation, including pools, beaches and playgrounds, may be found [here](#). An updated rec camp checklist is also attached to this memo.

Changes in Grocery Store Guidance

On July 10, 2020, DPH Commissioner Monica Bharel rescinded her orders of March 25 and April 7 which set out occupancy limits and other guidelines to avoid COVID exposure for customers and workers. Grocery stores should now follow the Sector Specific Workplace Safety Standards for Retail Businesses to Address COVID-19 issued by the Governor on June 8, 2020. The lifting of these orders also allows municipalities with bans on plastic single-use bags to return to enforcing those regulations and allows customers to again use reusable bags for shopping.

Reporting Non-compliant Businesses

The state recently posted contact information for all local Boards of Health to assist the public in reporting of non-compliant businesses. In many cases this contact information is out of date. Please check your municipality's contact information and report any changes to DPH and MHOA. You can find the COVID compliance page [here](#) and the list of BOH contacts [here](#).

Updated Restaurant Guidance / Live Entertainment

Restaurant guidance has been updated to allow for entertainment and live performances. Brass and wind instruments and singing is prohibited indoors and discouraged outdoors. In addition to following all

restaurant guidance, restaurants offering live entertainment must also follow the theater & performance venue guidance, found [here](#).

Phase III, Step 1 Outdoor Recreation Guidance

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) has released a presentation on outdoor recreation requirements, including youth sports. You can find the presentation [here](#).

Disposal of Beer and Food Waste

The closure of restaurants, bars, and other venues due to the COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in an abundance of beer and other food waste going stale in these establishments. Beer, in particular, has a very high Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), making it what is referred to as “high strength wastewater,” which also has a very low pH. The combination of the beer’s high BOD and low pH make disposing of stale beer in the sewer system extremely problematic, with the potential to cause damaging conditions within the sewer system and to potentially overwhelm the receiving wastewater treatment plant. Given the current volumes of stale beer and other food waste across the Commonwealth, it is imperative that it is disposed of properly. MassDEP and MWRA recommend:

1. Stale beer and other food waste should not be disposed of down the drain.
2. Restaurants, bars, and other venues should work with distributor to collect full and partially full kegs.
3. Distributors and other venues can also explore other options through MassDEP or RecyclingWorks for disposal at anaerobic digestion facilities. You can find a list of facilities accepting diverted food waste [here](#). For assistance, contact RecyclingWorks at 888-254-5525 or email info@recyclingworksma.com.

Other Recent Updates and Guidance:

Updated Quarantine Guidance

On June 30, Governor Baker announced updated guidance this afternoon for those traveling to Massachusetts. All travelers arriving to Massachusetts – including Massachusetts residents returning home – are instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days, except that, beginning July 1, 2020, travelers from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, and New Jersey arriving in Massachusetts are exempt from this directive and need not self-quarantine for 14 days. Workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are exempt from the directive to self-quarantine for 14 days if traveling to Massachusetts for work purposes. All persons are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. For Massachusetts travel information, please visit the Department of Public Health’s (DPH) website [here: Travel Information Related to COVID-19](#). For national travel information, please visit www.travel.state.gov.

Initial School Re-opening Guidance

On June 25, 2020 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released initial guidance for school reopening in the fall. The guidance aims to get as many children back to in-person learning as can be safely done. The guidance can be found be downloaded from the DESE webpage. **On July 17 additional guidance was released, with information on handling of symptomatic or exposed individuals and when testing and/or quarantine might be necessary. This document, along with a list of frequently asked questions, issued July 10, 2020, is attached to this memo.**

Updated CDC Guidance for Cooling Centers

The CDC recently released guidance for operating cooling centers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines include considerations such as increased absences of staff and volunteers of sites, screening and alternative sites for symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, air filtration, physical distancing, cleaning, and more. Find the CDC guidance on operating cooling centers [HERE](#).

Advisory Group Report on Health Equity and COVID-19

To address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and marginalized populations, the DPH's COVID-19 Health Equity Advisory Group released new data and specific recommendations to inform the state's ongoing response.

The top recommendations from the report include:

- Continuing to disaggregate COVID data across populations and sectors, such as transit usage.
- Increasing equitable distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) for essential workers and Commonwealth residents in professions most at risk.
- Implement policies that increase housing stability for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- Prioritizing investment in multilingual outreach to communities to increase access to testing, home and workplace protections, and access to state assistance programs.
- Planning and implementing a strategy for the active engagement and representation of existing community based organizations in the most-impacted communities as part of decision-making processes related to COVID-19 response and recovery.

For the list of full recommendations by the Advisory Group, click [HERE](#).

Mass Gathering State-wide Testing Results

On June 17th and 18th, the state hosted free testing for individuals who have attended mass gatherings, as well as the general public. Over 30,000 individuals from across the state participated in the testing, with a positive test rate on approximately 2-3%, which is level with the current testing rate in the state. In Berkshire County, Berkshire Medical Center reported that over 500 individuals were tested, and that as of June 23rd, there were no positives. These results in Berkshire County and across the state indicate lower than expected transmission from recent demonstrations and other mass gatherings.

Massachusetts Get Tested Website

For consolidated information regarding testing sites, who can get tested in MA, a COVID symptom checker, and other resources, visit the Get Tested MA! Website [HERE](#). In addition, DPH's Stop the Spread initiative has opened 8 free testing sites in areas particularly hard hit and where testing was inadequate. All of these sites are in far eastern Massachusetts, although they are open to all residents of the Commonwealth, including individuals who are asymptomatic. In Berkshire County, Berkshire Medical Center continues to provide testing.

BCBOHA Job Aids

BCBOHA continues to update checklists and job aids to assist Boards of Health and their businesses to reopen. The most recent version of the job aids can be found [HERE](#). Many of the job aids have been updated to encompass the most recent guidance related to COVID-19.

Smoking and Outside Dining During COVID

According to MHOA, if your community has not banned smoking at a restaurant's outdoor seating, then smoking can be permitted if the location meets state regulation requirements found in 105 CMR 661.200. This is relevant during COVID because many smoke-free restaurants that typically do not have outdoor seating are now being given temporary permission to have outdoor seating. BOHs can include being smoke-free as one of the requirements to obtain permission for outdoor seating for a restaurant. Reasons to add this condition include 1) second hand smoke exposure is dangerous especially with COVID primarily being a respiratory disease, and 2) it maintains a "level playing field" for all restaurants aiming to stay afloat financially during the pandemic.

Updated Town Meeting Guidance:

Updated Town Meeting guidance was distributed on June 11th to address COVID-19 safety recommendations. The purpose of these guidelines are to provide instructions to municipalities to safely conduct Town Meetings and help protect against the spread of COVID-19 as in-person meetings resume. Several Berkshire towns have successfully held socially distanced Annual Town Meetings, Special Town Meetings and Annual Elections.

RMV Guidance

Governor Baker signed COVID-19 Order No. 39 which authorizes the RMV to implement temporary processes through August. This included processes for on-line testing for learner's permits, as well as an extended deadline to register a new vehicle. For RMV FAQs please click [HERE](#).

COVID Testing at Independent Senior Housing, Frequently Asked Questions

The DPH released an FAQ for testing at independent senior housing facilities. For more information, click [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Data Collection Bill

Governor Baker filed "An Act to Ensure the Collection of COVID-19 Data" to build on legislation recently signed by the governor to expand data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic by the DPH. In part, this bill is intended to ensure timely and accurate data collection related to COVID-19 to help further address the health disparities affection, in particular, communities of color and older residents. In addition, this bill aims to enhance the data the Baker Administration publishes daily to inform the public about the impact of COVID-19 within the Commonwealth. For more information on the bill, click [HERE](#).

Pediatric Vaccines and Physicals

The DPH is reporting a drop of 35% to 40% in routine pediatric vaccines, indicating that families are seeking routine care less during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, DPH has heard concerns about routine camp and school requirements for physicals. DPH indicated that BOHs should work with schools, camps, and other child care facilities, as well as families, to encourage routine vaccines for children, and for BOHs to continue to require physicals for children attending camps, child care, and school programming.

Visitation for Residents of Group Homes and Residential Schools

The department of Developmental Services (DDS) issued a visitation policy on June 6th, effective June 10th, with guidelines for visitations at group homes for the developmentally disabled and residential schools. The guidelines layout requirements related to the use of outdoor areas for visitation, visitor

screening, face masks, social distancing and supervision, scheduling visits, and disinfecting the visitation areas, among other items.

Limits on Visitors in Long Term Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Outbreak

The DPH released a memorandum on June 1st that replaced a memorandum issued on March 16, 2020 and is effective as of June 3, 2020. The memorandum states that Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities may allow visits with residents to occur, provided that physical distancing and protection requirements described in detail within the memorandum are followed. LTC facilities may allow in person visitations in a designated outdoor space with restrictions that are scheduled in advance. LTC facilities may limit the length of any visit, the days in which the visits occur, and the number of times during a day or week a resident may be visited. Special visitation practices for compassionate care may also be used, including situations not limited to an end-of-life.

Updates on Breweries and Wineries

Breweries and Wineries are still able to operate take out services. While bars, breweries, and wineries will not be permitted to open until Phase 4, breweries and wineries may open in Phase 2 if they provide seated food and beverage service, where patrons do not mingle in the venue. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) released an advisory regarding the local licensing authority's ability to expand alcohol licensees' licensed premises for outdoor seating on an expedited basis. This Advisory can be found [HERE](#). In addition, ABCC also released guidelines for extension of premises to patio and outdoor areas, found [HERE](#). A properly permitted food truck can be used as the source of the food, as long as it is served at the table.

Tag/Yard Sales

The Department of Labor Standards (DLS) provided clarification on Yard Sales on June 8th, below:

- A yard sale, by definition, is private activity of personal household goods on private property (DLS will not take any action)
- A town can continue to regulate Yard Sales according to local ordinance.
- The limits on in person gatherings in public would apply.

Probable Cases Now Reported on DPH COVID-19 Dashboard

As of June 1, 2020, the DPH began reporting both confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and deaths. This change is a reflection of guidance from the CDC to include "probable" COVID-19 cases and deaths in data collection and reporting efforts. This change will increase the number of cases and deaths reported in Massachusetts. As of June 1, case and death reports will include numbers that are the result of a retrospective review of probable cases and death dating back to March 1, 2020. Probable Cases are defined as individuals who have not been tested by the standard viral test, but have either 1) had a positive antibody test and either had COVID symptoms or were likely to be exposed to a positive case or 2) did not have an antibody test but had COVID symptoms and were known to be exposed to a positive case. For more information on probable case definitions and data collection, please view the first page of the daily COVID 19 dashboard [HERE](#).

Farm Pick Your Own/Agricultural Tourism Activities

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) released a bulletin outlining guidance for the fruit and vegetable farming community who engage in farm visit activities, such as pick-your-own operations. This guidance covers concerns around foodborne exposure to COVID-19, social distancing, activity plans, communication to customers, the use of face coverings and masks, and

more. This guidance can be found [HERE](#). In addition, MDAR also released a bulletin outlining guidance for farm labor management, which can be found [HERE](#).

Mold and Legionella Considerations for Reopening

The Department of Public Health released guidance on May 21, 2020 outlining considerations and guidance for addressing mold and Legionella. The temporary shut-down of a building and reductions in normal water use can create mold and Legionella hazards and building owners and employers should ensure that their building does not have mold in the water system. Guidance on how to check for potential hazards can be found on the CDC website CDC [HERE](#).

Reopening Plan Template

On May 18th, the Advisory Board released a COVID-19 Control Plan Template for businesses. All businesses in Massachusetts must develop a written control plan outlining how its workplace will comply with the mandatory safety standards for operation in the COVID-19 reopening period. Control plans do NOT need to be submitted for approval but must be kept on the premises and made available in the case of an inspection or outbreak. See and download the plan template [HERE](#).

Enforcement of Reopening Requirements

Although the orders are issued by DPH, as a practical matter the primary enforcers of essential business orders are the local boards of health and their agents. If necessary, local health officials can call on state or local law enforcement to help enforce the order. It is expected that police presence will be limited and will be required only when a compliance issue presents an immediate threat to health and safety or the risk of a violent confrontation. Enforcement guidelines for reopening are attached to this memo. Boards of Health should contact the Department of Labor Standards (DLS) for assistance as needed and may be contacted by DLS if a complaint is made to the state. Neither DLS nor the LBOH is required to inspect prior to a business reopening. Neither DLS nor the local board of health has authority to close a business for violation of a COVID-19 workplace safety standard although they may revoke a permit or close a business pursuant to other regulations or local ordinances. Where continued non-compliance with a COVID-19 workplace safety standard warrants the closing of a business, the local board of health or DLS must first seek a court injunction. Local boards of health can request enforcement assistance and interpretive guidance by calling the DLS hotline: (508) 616-0461 x9488 or by sending an email to safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov.

Updates to Testing Eligibility for COVID-19

The DPH released new guidance that expands testing recommendations for individuals eligible for COVID-19 testing, especially for individuals who are close contacts of confirmed COVID cases. The DPH recommends that all individuals in Massachusetts identified as a close contact by a Local BOH, the MA DPH, the Community Tracing Collaborative, or a healthcare provider should be tested. A close contact is defined as a person who has been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for at least 10-15 minutes. Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting room area or room with a COVID-19 case while the case was symptomatic or within the 48 hours before symptom onset. Close contact can also occur if an individual has direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended PPE. The DPH has also updated the list of COVID-19 testing sites. Information on expanded testing guidelines, as well as the most up-to-date list of COVID-19 testing sites can be found [here](#). The Public Health Nurses now have a “test pass” that they can provide to any contact needing a test.

ADA Compliance

The Massachusetts Office on Disabilities (MOD) reminds municipalities that even in a crisis, people with disabilities should continue to have equal access to services, work, education, and community without discrimination or increased safety risks due to COVID-19. Communication about COVID-19 and related programs should consider the potential ways that people with sensory, learning, and cognitive disabilities will access this information and take steps to ensure that communication methods are effective. If point of distribution locations for food or personal protective equipment are established, please address how these supplies will be distributed to people whose ability to drive, lift, carry or whose use of public transportation is limited, to ensure that people with disabilities can equally access those services. MOD can be contacted for technical assistance.

The Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps (APHVC) Public Health Services

The APHVC is a program of the Academic Health Department Consortium, with a mission to leverage public health students, alumni, and expert volunteers to augment, amplify, and promote local public health efforts in Massachusetts. Services that the volunteers can provide include assistance with health communications of all mediums, community outreach, translation services, data analysis and presentation, policy and protocols, mobilizing and supporting partnerships.

CARES Act Funding

Massachusetts has received approximately \$2.7 billion as part of the Federal CARES Act funding. The Governor announced on May 14 that about \$502 million of this funding will be distributed to municipalities through local aid channels, and is meant for all COVID- related municipal expenses, including overtime costs associated with police, fire and EMS as well as other municipal costs related to COVID, including schools, public works and public health. Although the first round of requests were due on June 12, there will be an opportunity to request FY 21 funds at a later date. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Legal Questions

The Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) has been contracted to provide legal guidance to local boards of health on COVID-related matters. Documents and FAQ can be found on the MAHB website [HERE](#). These answers are meant for educational purposes only and do not constitute individual legal advice. Boards of Health should also consult their town counsel for specific legal advice. MAHB also has available answers to health-related questions and best practices [HERE](#).

Testing in Congregate Care Settings

Due to the high number of cases in congregate care settings, especially nursing homes, but including group homes and assisted living, many congregate care sites are undergoing global testing of staff and residents. In Berkshire County, some of this testing is done through Berkshire Health Systems, in conjunction with County Ambulance, and in this case results are provided to the local board of health through their public health nurse as soon as they are available. Other facilities have chosen to have the testing done through other providers. In these cases the local board of health is encouraged to be in touch with facilities in their municipality and to proactively ask for results as soon as they come in as there may otherwise be a significant delay in obtaining results through MAVEN.

Data Reporting from DPH

The DPH COVID-19 webpage now provides case data broken down by city/town updated every Wednesday. **This information now also includes the number of residents who have been tested, and a 7-day average positivity rate for each municipality.** To maintain privacy of patients, case data are

only available for municipalities with ≥ 5 cases. Please note that these are the case reports according to DPH records; occasionally this may differ from municipal reports due to confusion on addresses (particularly where towns share a common zip code) or where someone is incorrectly reported in a municipality in which they do not live. DPH is now providing patient census by hospital daily. Access reports [HERE](#). See the table below for Berkshire County community-level data (updated July 15, 2020).

Adams	35	New Ashford	0
Alford	<5	New Marlborough	7
Becket	16	North Adams*	47
Cheshire	<5	Otis	<5
Clarksburg	7	Peru	<5
Dalton*	16	Pittsfield*	186
Egremont	5	Richmond	5
Florida	<5	Sandisfield*	<5
Great Barrington*	73	Savoy	<5
Hancock	<5	Sheffield	15
Hinsdale	<5	Stockbridge	14
Lanesboro	8	Tyringham	<5
Lee*	19	Washington	<5
Lenox*	14	West Stockbridge	5
Monterey	<5	Williamstown*	83
Mount Washington	0	Windsor	0
<p>* Indicates long term care (LTC) facility located in the municipality. Approximately 21% of cases of COVID in MA are among residents and staff of LTC facilities, and approximately 60% of total deaths of COVID in MA are among LTC. It is important to note that case numbers at LTC can appear to skew an individual community's case numbers. An asterisk does NOT indicate that a particular LTC has COVID cases or deaths of COVID.</p>			

DPH COVID-19 Dashboard

In addition to reporting city/town specific data, the Department of Public Health has begun posting new tables, graphs, and other data points related to COVID-19, found [HERE](#). The Dashboard features data such as daily confirmed cases, testing, hospitalizations, deaths, data broken down by age group, PPE distribution, and data related to nursing homes. The dashboard is updated daily.

Weekly Conference Calls for Local Boards of Health

- DPH continues to hold weekly calls with local boards of health across the Commonwealth on Tuesdays at 3:00 PM. These calls have DPH staff from a variety of departments available for answering questions including Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health. The number for this call is 888-390-5007 and the participant code is 6137873.

- The Governor's Command Center also holds a weekly call for the LBOH every Friday at 9:00 AM. Boards of Health are asked to only have one person dial in as phone lines are limited. Dial in information is: 888-390-5007 with Passcode 4847016.
- In addition, DPH has been holding a weekly call related to MAVEN on Tuesdays at 11:30.
- Dr. Dan Doyle from Berkshire Medical Center and the Dalton BOH is also holding weekly conference calls with the LBOH of Berkshire County, especially the medical personnel who are also on Boards of Health and chairs and other representatives. **These calls have been moved from Friday afternoons to Wednesday afternoons.**
- BCBOHA has been hosting a call for BOH staff and agents on Friday mornings at 11:30 AM. If you would like to join this call please contact us for call-in information.

Information for Local Boards of Health

MDPH has created a page for COVID-19 information specific to Local Boards of Health [HERE](#), which includes emergency directives, resources for public communication, and frequently asked questions.

Berkshire County Emergency Operations:

Berkshire County Emergency Operations Centers have mostly ramped down at this time, while planning to be able to ramp back up quickly should it be necessary.

- **North Berkshire Operations Center**

Operations Hotline: 413-662-3614 (8-5 weekdays, leave msg after hours).

Email: nbcovid@gmail.com

- **Central Berkshire Covid-19 Coordinating Center**

Phone: (413) 770-7663 (weekdays, not yet taking calls from the public or the media).

Email: cbcovidOC@gmail.com

UPDATE: The Central Berkshire Coordinating Center has reduced its regular situational update calls and has consolidated its operations at the 2nd Street Coordinating Center as of June 18th. Supplies and equipment will be stored for future use. Operations will resume if and when necessary.

- **Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC)**

The SBREPC can be reached at sbrepc@gmail.com.

UPDATE: SBREPC is discontinuing their regular written updates as of June 19th. Updates will resume in the future as needed.

COVID-19 Testing in Berkshire County:

The drive-through testing facility at Berkshire Medical Center remains operational. **In addition, part time locations for testing have been opened at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington and at the North Adams campus of BMC. Antibody testing is also available at BMC.** Most testing requires a physician order. Symptomatic individuals may call the BMC hotline at 855-BMC-LINK, OR 855-262-5465. After hotline screening, those qualified will be referred for a telemedicine appointment with a physician, and if appropriate, given an order and a time for testing.

Questions from the General Public and Worried-Well

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and United Way 211 call and information service is now operating 24/7 and is answering calls for community members who are not sick but would like to receive information related to COVID-19. Residents across the state can also sign up for the new text notification system including updates, news and prevention information by texting

COVIDMA to 888-777. Also encourage your residents to sign up for your municipalities outgoing-911 alert system (such as Code Red, Reverse911, or similar).

For those needing emotional support during these stressful times:

- o Call 2-1-1 and choose the “CALL2TALK” option.
- o Call or text Samaritans 24/7 helpline at 877-870-4673.
- o 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 US and territories.

The Town of Great Barrington has also made available a mental health and wellness toolkit available on their website [HERE](#) (PDF).

Communication resources for the public available from the MA DPH include:

- DPH Flyer/Infographic on reducing stress & coping with fear of COVID-19: Click [HERE](#).
- DMH resources on maintaining Emotional Health & Well-Being: Click [HERE](#).
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/maintaining-emotional-health-well-being-during-the-covid-19-outbreak>
- New Social Distancing infographics: Click here for [YOUTH](#) & [GENERAL](#).
- COVID-2019 infographic for posting in all public places: [DOWNLOAD](#).

Situation Report:

In January, a new strain of coronavirus—2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (COVID-19)—was detected in Wuhan, China. This novel coronavirus causes a respiratory (lung) infection. This new virus is related to, but different from, other coronaviruses that cause the common cold and diseases such as SARS and MERS. Common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, shortness of breath and in severe cases, pneumonia (fluid in the lungs). Cases range from very mild to severe.

As of July 20, there have been 107,056 cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, of which 624 are in Berkshire County. The number of people tested in Massachusetts has increased to over 1.3 million people, and more than 86,000 have received antibody testing. As of July 15, more than 13,000 people had been tested for active COVID through Berkshire Health Systems and 2,436 had received antibody testing. Antibody testing shows positive rates of about 9% in Berkshire County so far. There have been 8,214 deaths in Massachusetts, with 45 of those deaths in Berkshire County. In Massachusetts, a significant majority of deaths have been in individuals over the age of 80, with an overall average age of death of 82, and almost all of those where information is known (98%) have had underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk. Overall, all important indicators are down dramatically in Massachusetts and the rate of increase is almost flat across the Commonwealth.

There have been 3,761,362 reported cases in the United States as of July 20, and 140,157 deaths. Cases are currently surging in southeastern states, Texas, Arizona and California, among others. Most of the northeast is seeing continuing decreasing cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Although data is largely missing, it appears that there are significant racial and ethnic disparities in COVID cases and deaths.

Updated daily information on Massachusetts' case reports can be found [HERE](#).

Updated daily information (Monday-Friday) on US cases can be found [HERE](#).

MDPH Information on COVID-19: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19>

HMCC Resources: <https://region1hmcc.org/>

CDC General Information Page on COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC Communication Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>

MDPH Printable Fact Sheets:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19#-printable-fact-sheets->

CDC Response Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html#cdc-response>

CDC Cases in the US: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

CDC Guidance for Medical Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

CDC Information on Travel: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

CDC Information for Businesses & Travelers:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fguidance-business-response.html