

# **2,000+ new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations above 600 in Massachusetts**

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Another 2,047 cases of the coronavirus and 21 COVID-19 deaths were added to the state's grand totals Tuesday as the percent of tests that come back positive for the virus continues to climb.

The Department of Public Health's report for Tuesday increased the total case count to 169,976 infections and elevated the virus's death toll here to 10,184 people with confirmed or probable COVID-19. The seven-day weighted average of the positive test rate stands at 2.63 percent, up from 2.35 percent Monday. If repeat testing from higher education institutions is left out of the equation, the positive test rate would be 4.42 percent, DPH said.

The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized increased by 30 and stood at 618 as of midday Tuesday. Gov. Charlie Baker said Tuesday that the state's COVID-19 trends are headed in the "wrong direction and show no signs of changing." DPH estimated Tuesday that there are 23,702 active cases of the highly-infectious coronavirus in Massachusetts.