

Greater New Bedford has six operation COVID-19 testing sites

Greater New Bedford has six operation COVID-19 testing sites; two in New Bedford, three in Dartmouth, and one in Fairhaven. Details on each location and list of COVID-19 symptoms:

1. St Luke's Hospital (ER and hospital)

101 Page Street Po Box H 3003 New Bedford MA 02740

PHONE: 508-997-1515

HOURS: ER testing 24 hours

Call First: No

2. AFC Urgent Care New Bedford

119 Coggeshall Street, New Bedford, MA 02746

PHONE: (508) 990-1900

HOURS: Weekdays 9am-5pm, Weekends 9am-2pm

Call First: Yes

3. Hawthorn Medical Associates Urgent Care

535 Faunce Corner Road North Dartmouth MA

PHONE: 508-996-3991

HOURS: 7:00am-7pm Mon-Fri 8am-4pm Sat 8am-4pm Sun

Call First: No

4. Southcoast Health Drive Through

300 Faunce Corner Rd Dartmouth MA

PHONE: 508-973-1919

HOURS: 8am-4:30pm

Call First: Yes

5. Southcoast Urgent Care Center – Dartmouth

435 State Rd, Route 6, North Dartmouth, MA, 02747, USA

PHONE: 508-973-1919

Drive-Thru Services: Yes

Appointment Required: Yes

Referral Required: Yes

Call First: Yes

6. Southcoast Urgent Care Center – Fairhaven

208 Mill Road, Fairhaven, MA

PHONE: 508-973-1919

Drive-Thru Services: No

Appointment Required: Yes

Referral Required: Yes

Call First: Yes

List of all COVID-19 testing sites in Massachusetts **here**.

Per the CDC, COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Infected people have had a wide range of symptoms reported – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Boston Bruins legend Ray Bourque visits Boston police and delivers meals

“Thank You for Thanking Us: Special thanks to Bruins legend Ray Bourque who personally stopped by District A-1 (Downtown) on Thursday, May 14, 2020, to deliver meals to the officers who work there.

According to Bourque, he just wanted to say thank you to the officers for keeping everybody safe and he thought delivering meals from his restaurant, Tresca located at 233 Hanover Street in the North End, was the perfect way to show his appreciation. Said one of the officers, “Everybody knows Ray Bourque is one the greatest players in the history of the NHL. But, they should also know, especially after what he did for us today, that he’s also one of the nicest.”

Drafted 8th overall in the first round 1979 NHL draft, Bourque went on to play 21 seasons with the Bruins while appearing in 19 consecutive NHL All Star Games. In 2001, he won a Stanley Cup while playing for the Colorado Avalanche.

To this day, Ray Bourque remains one of the most popular players in Boston Bruin history.”-Boston Police Department.

Massachusetts Public Health officials warn of virus-linked syndrome in children

Chris Lisinski

State House News Service

With nine suspected cases of a newly identified pediatric condition in Massachusetts that may be connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel on Thursday alerted health care providers to be on the lookout and ordered them to report any additional cases immediately.

More than 100 cases of the condition, referred to as pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome, have been confirmed in New York, including three deaths.

Bharel said in a Thursday memo that nine children in Massachusetts hospitals are suspected to have PMIS, flagging it as a key issue for those on the front lines to watch. She called for mandatory reporting of any confirmed or suspected cases in patients younger than 21 to the Department of Public Health, effective immediately, "to reduce morbidity and mortality."

"The reason this order's important is to put out what the symptoms are that primary care and hospitals should be looking for to report this condition," Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders said at a Thursday press conference on COVID-19 response. "We don't know what the prevalence is of the condition in Massachusetts yet. That's why the public health order was so important."

Health experts have long said that children are less vulnerable to the COVID-19 respiratory illness than adults, but evidence is growing in Europe and in New York state that

they may be susceptible to an inflammatory condition that appears linked to the same novel coronavirus.

In her advisory, Bharel wrote that the majority of PMIS patients tested positive for SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Bharel instructed providers to investigate whether pediatric patients who may be presenting symptoms of the syndrome have had any recent illness with COVID-19 or close contact with someone else who caught the highly infectious virus.

The symptoms do not mirror COVID-19, however. Fever, inflammation and other severe issues such as organ failure could be signs of the syndrome, Bharel wrote, when there is no evidence of a plausible alternative diagnosis.

"This syndrome has features which overlap with Kawasaki disease and toxic shock syndrome," Bharel wrote. "Inflammatory markers may be elevated, and fever and abdominal symptoms may be prominent. Other reported findings have included rash, myocarditis and other cardiovascular changes, coagulopathies, and acute kidney injury. Additionally, some patients have developed cardiogenic or vasogenic shock and required intensive care. Respiratory symptoms may not be a prominent feature."

She stressed the importance of "early recognition" by pediatricians and added that it is "essential" for providers to collaborate with specialists in infectious diseases, rheumatology, cardiology and critical care.

Public health officials have confirmed 80,497 COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts since the outbreak began and a cumulative death toll of 5,315. Less than 4 percent of all confirmed cases were observed in residents 19 and younger, and the rate of confirmed cases per 100,000 was also the lowest in that age group by a wide margin.

In a Wednesday statement, before Bharel issued new guidance and while state officials were still compiling data about the prevalence of the syndrome in the state, American Academy of Pediatrics Massachusetts Chapter President Dr. Elizabeth Goodman said the growing concerns highlight “why it’s important that parents stay connected to their pediatrician.”

“If a pediatrician thinks a child should be seen in the office, we urge parents to follow through so that we can catch things early, before they become emergent,” she said. “Any family with a known COVID-19 case – any family member – should be on the lookout for fever, rash, red eyes, cracked lips, abdominal pain, swollen or red hands or feet in their children, even if the child was never sick.”

New Bedford reports 88 more COVID-19 cases, death total remains at 45

Mayor Jon Mitchell’s office reported 88 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Friday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 1,383, **up from 1,295 on Thursday**. No additional deaths were reported leaving the total COVID-19 related deaths at 45.

The City of New Bedford is offering a mask to any New Bedford resident who wants one at no cost, at a series of drive-through distribution events in late May and June. Full details **here**.

18 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River, according to Mayor Coogan’s Office. This brings the

total in Fall River to 906. Fall River saw 2 more deaths, bringing the total to 19. Full details [here](#).

On May 14, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,685 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 82,182. This is an increase from **Wednesday's 1,165 reported cases**. Full details [here](#).

Several Republican legislators on Tuesday urged Gov. Charlie Baker to not delay the reopening of the economy any longer, expressing frustration that other states around Massachusetts are allowing businesses to resume activities while owners and employees in their districts remain in limbo. Full details [here](#).

New Bedford Cumberland Farms closes after employee tests positive for COVID-19

In April, Cumberland Farms shut down two Westport stores after a delivery driver tested positive for COVID-19 and now a third store has closed. The Cumberland Farms store at 757 Ashley Blvd. in New Bedford closed its doors after one of their employees tested positive for the coronavirus.

The temporary closing on Tuesday evening was to allow a crew to disinfect, clean and sanitize the entire store and reopen at some point next week.

In a statement by the company, they stated "We are making every effort to provide the affected Team Member and our broader team with the necessary resources and support. We are

taking all appropriate steps following guidance from local health officials.

We are grateful to all our customers for your patience and understanding during this time. All Team Members that work at these stores have been contacted and advised to follow CDC-recommended guidelines.”

Baker to distribute \$502 million from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund to local cities and towns

The Baker-Polito Administration Thursday announced that it is preparing to distribute up to \$502 million from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund to local cities and towns for eligible costs related to the COVID-19 response effort. The Administration is also providing guidance to local municipalities on this formal distribution process and establishing protocols to maximize the use of federal resources and promote compliance with federal restrictions.

This distribution, plus funds allocated directly to Boston and Plymouth County, represents approximately 25% of the state’s allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, and in most cases, is expected to be sufficient to address incurred or expected eligible COVID-related expenses. This approach is intended to distribute money to municipalities quickly and efficiently, and maintain necessary flexibility to allocate additional funds if unanticipated needs arise, or if federal rules change. These resources will also help ease municipal

cashflow pressures.

The Administration's distribution process will allow municipalities to apply for estimated Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) needs. These funds will help address any existing deficits in FY20, thereby avoiding the need to use reserves to fund a deficit or carry one into Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21). Municipalities will then have the opportunity to request funding for FY21 eligible COVID-19 costs at a later date.

These funds must be utilized by municipalities consistent with parameters established by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES" Act) and guidance from the US Treasury Department.

Massachusetts reaches 424,361 COVID-19 tests

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update



On May 14, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,685 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 82,182. This is an increase from **Wednesday's 1,165 reported cases.**

167 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported on Thursday bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 5,482. As of 4 pm today, 424,361 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 14,329 new tests since yesterday.

As of May 12, 48,372 individuals in Massachusetts were subject to quarantine with 27,812 no longer in quarantine. 20,560

individuals are undergoing monitoring/under quarantine.

Several Republican legislators on Tuesday urged Gov. Charlie Baker to not delay the reopening of the economy any longer, expressing frustration that other states around Massachusetts are allowing businesses to resume activities while owners and employees in their districts remain in limbo. Full details [here](#).

New Bedford Coronavirus Update

New Bedford officials reported two more COVID-19 related deaths today, nine in the past two days.

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 64 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Thursday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 1,295, **up from 1,231 on Saturday**. The two additional deaths bring the total death count attributed to COVID-19 to 45 in the city.

The City of New Bedford is offering a mask to any New Bedford resident who wants one at no cost, at a series of drive-through distribution events in late May and June. Full details [here](#).

Fall River Coronavirus Update

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New Bedford reports two more COVID-19 related deaths, 64 new cases

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97 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River, according to the Mayor's Office. This brings the total in Fall River to 888. Fall River saw 3 more deaths, bringing the total to 17. Full details **here**.

On May 13, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,165 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 80,497. This is an increase from **Tuesday's 870 reported cases**. Full details **here**.

Several Republican legislators on Tuesday urged Gov. Charlie Baker to not delay the reopening of the economy any longer, expressing frustration that other states around Massachusetts are allowing businesses to resume activities while owners and employees in their districts remain in limbo. Full details **here**.

New Bedford will offer free masks to any resident who wants one

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced that the City of New Bedford has launched MaskNB, an initiative in partnership with the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter of the American Red Cross and Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation, to continue to promote the widespread use of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by offering a mask to any City resident who wants one at no cost, at a series of drive-through distribution events in late May and June.

Mayor Mitchell explained the reason for making the masks available: “The scientific basis for widespread mask use is growing stronger, but in order for that knowledge to make a difference, we need to take individual and collective action. At an individual level, that means remembering to always wear a mask whenever you cannot practice social distancing.

Mitchell added, “Collectively, it means finding ways to help each other adjust to the ‘new normal’ of daily mask-wearing. By supplying enough masks for all our residents, we are not only taking an important step in that direction, but we are doing something unique that few cities have been able to undertake. In this case, the commitment of American Red Cross volunteers, the creativity and determination of Joseph Abboud workers, and key city government departments, all came together to make the impossible, possible. They all deserve our thanks and admiration.”

“We’re proud to partner with the City of New Bedford and

Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation to distribute masks to local citizens. Public safety is an important mission of the Red Cross, and together we can help stop the spread of the COVID virus and protect our loved ones and neighbors,” said Barbara Cotton, executive director of the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter of the American Red Cross.

“We are proud to continue to support New Bedford’s efforts to fight COVID-19,” said Joe Bahena, CEO of Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation. The designer menswear manufacturer, based in the City’s North End, retooled its facility to produce masks early in the COVID-19 response effort, and has continued to refine its operations to meet the City’s needs.

Under the MaskNB distribution plan, interested residents in each of the City’s six Wards will have an opportunity to obtain free cloth face masks at New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Boulevard, on the following assigned dates and times:

Ward 1 Saturday, May 30 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ward 2 Sunday, May 31 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ward 3 Saturday, June 6 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ward 4 Sunday, June 7 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ward 5 Saturday, June 13 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ward 6 Sunday, June 14 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The dates are listed at www.masknb.com. Additional dates may be announced based on available supplies.

Residents should arrive at the main vehicle entrance of New Bedford High School, located at 230 Hathaway Boulevard, and remain in their vehicles as Red Cross volunteers hand out masks based on their requests. Residents are asked to limit their mask requests to those in their household and/or any elderly or vulnerable neighbors (who have been advised against leaving their homes).

In late April the City announced the first phase of its mask distribution effort, with a goal of delivering roughly 50,000

Abboud-made masks to first responders, essential workers, and vulnerable populations, including residents and staff of nursing homes, long-term care facilities, senior living facilities, shelters, and New Bedford Housing Authority facilities. Masks are also being provided to staff and patients of the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, the staff and clients of the Meals on Wheels program, and elderly clients of the Immigrants Assistance Center. To date, the City has distributed more than 20,000 masks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the wearing of cloth face coverings in public where social distancing is difficult to maintain; cloth face coverings are not a substitute for medical-grade masks, but provide more protection against the spread of viruses than not covering one's face. More information about the use and effectiveness of cloth face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

Mayor Mitchell declared a state of emergency in New Bedford on March 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has since announced a range of measures to safeguard public health, including stringent requirements on nursing homes and senior living facilities, workplace safety protections, and regulations on food vendors and restaurants to protect their staff and customers.

Massachusetts

public

education activists call for cancellation of some student debt

Matt Murphy

State House News Service

Public education activists, including the Massachusetts Teachers Association, are calling for the cancellation of a substantial amount of student debt to ease the financial crunch brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Group leaders from the MTA and the Fund Our Future Coalition plan a Facebook Live event Wednesday night at 7 p.m. to draw attention to a report written in 2015 by UMass Amherst doctoral candidates Anastasia Wilson that found the state forgoes \$2.5 billion in savings, equity and economic activity due to student debt. The study has been updated to reflect the current conditions brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, and the event will be streamed on the pages of the MTA and the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts.

“The student debt crisis was bubbling over even before the coronavirus crisis, but now as we enter a second Great Depression, we must cancel all student debt and make the economy work for working families,” said Zac Bears, executive director of PHENOM. “Billionaires are getting even richer while students and workers lose their jobs and wait for food in breadlines. We have to do better.”

The coalition said it would like to see Congress pass legislation to cancel up to \$30,000 in student debt for individuals.