

# **Bristol County Sheriff Tom Hodgson to increase staff pay starting April 12**

Here's Bristol County Sheriff Tom Hodgson's note to staff regarding compensation adjustment:

"Over the past 14 days, I have been working on an adjustment of staff compensation to address the additional risks, responsibilities and sanitation requirements of staff working to reduce the risks of inmates and staff contracting the COVID-19 virus.

In my efforts to find an adequate compensation adjustment at a time our annual budget has been underfunded by \$9.5 million, and given the teamwork and individual disciplines to meet the necessary protocols to avoid the spread of COVID-19, and after conferring with union leadership, I have decided that as of Sunday, April 12, 2020, all staff assigned to work inside the secure perimeter will be paid an additional \$50 for each eight-hour shift worked. Anyone who works a double eight-hour shift will receive an additional \$50. In the instance when someone is working a partial second shift on the same day, they will be paid at a rate of \$6.25 per hour worked.

With regards to staff working outside the secure perimeter, each staff member will receive \$40 in additional compensation for each eight-hour shift.

Staff will not be compensated if, for any reason, i.e. vacation, personal, sick, etc., they do not work on any particular day. This will remain in effect until further notice.

The ongoing efforts of our team and attention to detail regarding the historic challenge before us have been amazing.

Provided we remain mindful and vigilant with our social distancing and personal sanitation, both here and in the community, we can reach our shared goal of preventing our inmate population, us, and our families from becoming exposed to and infected by COVID-19.

As a reminder, it is critically important that if members of our team develop a cough, fever, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or just begin to not feel well that you report it immediately to your supervisor and go home. If symptoms persist then contact your doctor for consultation and final approval to return to work.

In closing, let me take this opportunity once again to express my pride and gratitude for your dedication to serve and for your ongoing individual contributions that have earned you the reputation of being among our nation's best professionals in the field of corrections."

---

## **Massachusetts reports 87 new COVID-19 deaths on Saturday, 22,860 total cases**

On April 11, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,886 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 22,860. This is a decrease from Friday's 2,033 reported cases. 87 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 686.

As of 4 pm today, 108,776 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 6,404 in the past 24 hours compared to

the previous day's total of 7,447.



New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 136 positive cases of COVID-19 Saturday morning, up from the **119 cases they reported on Friday** and up from 102 on Thursday. Mayor Mitchell reported **New Bedford's third COVID-19 related death on Friday**.

After Fall River set a high in COVID-19 cases in one day, the city saw 6 more cases. According to Mayor Coogan, there are 97 confirmed cases in Fall River on Friday and of those, 26 have recovered and 71 remain active. Full details **here**.

Gov. Charlie Baker hopes lawmakers can resolve differences and send him a viable bill pausing all eviction and foreclosure proceedings statewide by next week, he said Saturday while touting aid that will flow to undocumented immigrants who are ineligible for unemployment benefits. Full details **here**.

As of April 11, the total amount of cases in The United States is 514,415 with 19,882 total deaths.

---

## Governor Baker hopes for eviction moratorium bill in days

By Chris Lisinski  
State House News Service

Gov. Charlie Baker hopes lawmakers can resolve differences and send him a viable bill pausing all eviction and foreclosure proceedings statewide by next week, he said Saturday while

touting aid that will flow to undocumented immigrants who are ineligible for unemployment benefits.

During a Facebook Live interview with El Mundo Boston that host Alberto Vasallo III translated into Spanish, Baker said he is precluded by law from temporarily banning housing removals via executive order but that his administration has been working with the Legislature to try to prioritize the issue.

The House and Senate have been unable to agree on language of a moratorium for weeks despite sharing support for the concept. On Thursday legislators established a conference committee, a process lawmakers turn to when they are unable to informally work out disagreements.

Baker did not explicitly endorse either branch's approach, and he said he hopes negotiators find compromise soon on something he can support.

"I know they're working on it this weekend and my hope is by next week they'll get a bill to me that I can sign," Baker said.

A trial court standing order has halted most hearings, but advocates say a formal moratorium is necessary to protect the most vulnerable from pressure.

Baker stressed to viewers that his office has staffers who speak Spanish and that several local and regional organizations can help tenants or homeowners facing financial pressures amid the coronavirus pandemic, particularly those who may feel "bullied" by landlords or banks because of language barriers.

Under existing state law, Baker said, tenants have 60 days to resolve issues before removal and homeowners have 90 days. He recited the phone number for his office's constituent services department and pledged to provide El Mundo with a list of

resources to pass to viewers.

"It's outrageous that anybody would bully anybody at this point in time," he said. "These are the things that a lot of the folks who do this work for a living who are funded by governments and by private agencies can help people with, and that's why it's important that we get that list to you."

Local leaders in mostly nonwhite communities have warned of the disparate impacts the COVID-19 outbreak is having, particularly in virus hotspots such as Chelsea and Revere.

Baker told El Mundo that he has had "a bunch of conversations" recently with municipal officials in those two cities as well as Lawrence. Over the next "day or two," he said, the administration and the cities would partner on locally targeted response initiatives to limit the emergency's toll.

Asked about how to support Massachusetts undocumented immigrants who are out of work amid widespread business shutdowns but do not qualify for unemployment aid, Baker said he agreed that the community faces "a giant problem" and needs support.

The governor said officials had undocumented immigrants partly in mind when they built the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, which he and First Lady Lauren Baker unveiled Monday and which already has \$15 million raised to distribute to local organizations.

"One of the main reasons for doing this was because we knew we had a big community out there of people who weren't going to qualify for any of these benefit programs and we wanted to have a vehicle through which we can make resources available to them," Baker said.

While Baker was live on the interview, his office announced the launch of a Spanish-language and mobile-friendly unemployment benefits website.

Another new initiative took effect Saturday making free COVID-19 tests available to grocery store and supermarket workers at two drive-through sites. The sites, located at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough and the Big E fairgrounds in West Springfield, had previously limited access to first responders but will now accept grocery employees who face risks of infection as essential workers.

Those interested in acquiring a test can do so even if they do not show symptoms, though they must ask supervisors or managers to schedule appointments on their behalf.

---

## **Spanish language unemployment application launched in Massachusetts**

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration today launched a Spanish language online, mobile-friendly, unemployment benefits application for those who need to apply.

The new, secure application for Spanish speakers is available through [mass.gov/desempleo](https://mass.gov/desempleo), the Spanish language website for unemployment in Massachusetts.

The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will make language applications available in Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese and additional languages in the coming days.

The new Spanish language UI form is the latest effort from the Commonwealth to deliver crucial COVID-19 information to non-English speakers, including:

Yesterday, the Administration announced that its COVID-19 text message alert system is available in Spanish

All of Mass.Gov (including Mass.Gov/COVID19) is available in 13 different languages

The Commonwealth's non-emergency help line for COVID-19, 2-1-1 is available in over 150 languages

Several agencies, including the Department of Public Health, offer additional fact sheets available in multiple languages

The Department of Unemployment Assistance is focused on supporting workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to process claims as quickly as possible. The new Spanish mobile-friendly application is among several efforts to reach and assist all individuals who are eligible for unemployment benefits and provide the financial assistance they need. Other efforts include:

Rapidly updating the DUA website with the latest information that claimants and employers need to know, what the latest federal legislation means for them, and a step-by-step guide to filing a claim available in multiple languages.

The unemployment contact form to reach a DUA agent is also available in multiple languages.

Hosting daily town halls in both English and Spanish, which have been attended by over 100,000 constituents. Individuals can sign up to attend a virtual town hall at [mass.gov/unemployment/townhall](https://mass.gov/unemployment/townhall) or at [mass.gov/desempleo](https://mass.gov/desempleo).

Deploying over 600 new remote employees to keep pace with the increased volume of unemployment insurance claims, and adding language capacities in the call center to better serve residents across the state.

Legislation proposed and signed by Governor Baker waiving the one-week waiting period to collect an unemployment claim

payment.

The Baker-Polito Administration will continue to update the public on developments related to COVID-19. Residents can visit [www.mass.gov/covid19](http://www.mass.gov/covid19) for the latest information, call 2-1-1 with questions, and text "COVIDMA" to 888-777 to subscribe to text-alert updates (COVIDMAESP for Spanish language alerts).

---

## **IRS launches new tool to help non-filers register for Economic Impact Payments**

To help millions of people, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service launched a **new web tool** allowing quick registration for Economic Impact Payments for those who don't normally file a tax return.

The non-filer tool, developed in partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, provides a free and easy option designed for people who don't have a return filing obligation, including those with too little income to file. The feature is available only on IRS.gov, and users should look for Non-filers: Enter Payment Info Here to take them directly to the tool.

"People who don't have a return filing obligation can use this tool to give us basic information so they can receive their Economic Impact Payments as soon as possible," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "The IRS and Free File Alliance have been working around the clock to deliver this new tool to help people."



The IRS reminds taxpayers that Economic Impact Payments will be distributed automatically to most people starting next week. Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for 2019 or 2018 will receive the payments automatically. Automatic payments will also go in the near future to those people receiving Social Security retirement, survivors, disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits and Railroad Retirement benefits.

### **How do I use the Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info tool?**

For those who don't normally file a tax return, the process is simple and only takes a few minutes to complete. First, visit IRS.gov, and look for "Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here." Then provide basic information including Social Security number, name, address, and dependents. The IRS will use this information to confirm eligibility and calculate and send an Economic Impact Payment. Using the tool to get your payment will not result in any taxes being owed. Entering bank or financial account information will allow the IRS to deposit your payment directly in your account. Otherwise, your payment will be mailed to you.

"Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info" is secure, and the information entered will be safe. The tool is based on Free File Fillable Forms, part of the Free File Alliance's offerings of free products on IRS.gov.

### **Who should use the Non-Filers tool?**

This new tool is designed for people who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and who don't receive Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits or Railroad Retirement benefits. Others who should consider the Non-Filers tool as an option, include:

**Lower income:** Among those who could use Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info tool are those who haven't filed a 2018 or 2019 return because they are under the normal income limits for filing a tax return. This may include single filers who made

under \$12,200 and married couples making less than \$24,400 in 2019.

Veterans beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients: The IRS continues to explore ways to see if Economic Impact Payments can be made automatically to SSI recipients and those who receive veterans disability compensation, pension or survivor benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and who did not file a tax return for the 2018 or 2019 tax years. People in these groups can either use Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info option now or wait as the IRS continues to review automatic payment options to simplify delivery for these groups.

Social Security, SSDI and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries with qualifying dependents: These groups will automatically receive \$1,200 Economic Impact Payments. People in this group who have qualifying children under age 17 may use Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info to claim the \$500 payment per child.

Students and others: If someone else claimed you on their tax return, you will not be eligible for the Economic Impact Payment or using the Non-Filer tool.

### **Coming next week: Automatic payments begin**

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 and chose direct deposit of their refund will automatically receive an Economic Impact Payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples and \$500 for each qualifying child. Individuals who receive Social Security retirement, survivors or disability benefits, SSDI or who receive Railroad Retirement benefits but did not file a return for 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive a payment in the near future.

**Coming next week:** Get My Payment shows Economic Impact Payment date, helps with direct deposit

To help everyone check on the status of their payments, the IRS is building a second new tool expected to be available for use by April 17. Get My Payment will provide people with the status of their payment, including the date their payment is scheduled to be deposited into their bank account or mailed to them.

An additional feature on Get My Payment will allow eligible people a chance to provide their bank account information so they can receive their payment more quickly rather than waiting for a paper check. This feature will be unavailable if the Economic Impact Payment has already been scheduled for delivery.

### **More Information on Economic Impact Payments**

The IRS will post additional updates on [IRS.gov/coronavirus](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) on these and other issues.

---

## **New Bedford reports 136 total positive COVID-19 cases Saturday, up 17 since Friday**

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 136 positive cases of COVID-19 Saturday morning, up from the **119 cases they reported on Friday** and up from 102 on Thursday. Mayor Mitchell reported **New Bedford's third COVID-19 related death on Friday**.

Dartmouth town officials this week reported their first two COVID-19 related deaths. Full details **here**.

Mayor Jon Mitchell, Southcoast Health President and CEO Keith Hovan, and representatives of Essex Group Management

Corporation today announced two Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Care Centers in New Bedford for those recovering from COVID-19. Full details with photos and video **here**.

After Fall River set a high in COVID-19 cases in one day, the city saw 6 more cases. According to Mayor Coogan, there are 97 confirmed cases in Fall River on Friday and of those, 26 have recovered and 71 remain active. Full details **here**.

On April 10, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 2,033 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 15,202. This is a decrease from Thursday's 2,151 reported cases. 96 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday (4 in Bristol County) bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 599. Full details **here**.

Yesterday, the Baker-Polito Administration issued further public health guidance, expanded resources for critical workers and increased Massachusetts National Guard activation to support its ongoing response to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Full details **here**.

MCAS testing requirements for the school year are suspended, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will modify or waive graduation requirements for students set to complete high school this summer, and due dates for district improvement plans will be pushed back under a bill Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law Friday. Full details **here**.

---

# Gov. Baker issues face covering advisory, authorizes 3,000 more National Guard personnel

BOSTON – Yesterday, the Baker-Polito Administration issued further public health guidance, expanded resources for critical workers and increased Massachusetts National Guard activation to support its ongoing response to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

A new Department of Public Health advisory, consistent with CDC guidance, recommends that all residents wear a mask or face covering in public when social distancing is not possible. In addition, the Executive Branch issued similar guidance to state employees recommending when masks or face coverings should be utilized while working.

The administration has also expanded access to the free priority COVID-19 testing sites for first responders located at Gillette Stadium and the Big E fairgrounds to include grocery store workers.

Additionally, Governor Charlie Baker authorized the activation of an additional 3,000 more military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard.

**Face Coverings and Cloth Masks Advisory:** The Baker-Polito Administration today issued guidance to residents and Executive Branch employees recommending the use of a face covering or cloth mask when in situations where maintaining proper social distancing measures are not possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as in a grocery store.

A face covering may include anything that covers your nose and

mouth, including a mask, scarf or bandana. Health care masks, such as N95 masks, should not be used and should be preserved for health care workers and first responders. Cloth masks should not be worn by young children under the age of two, persons with difficulty breathing, or those who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Instructions on how to make a cloth mask are available from the CDC [here](#).

**Grocery Store Worker Priority Testing:** The Baker-Polito Administration and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security today expanded access to the free, priority COVID-19 testing sites for first responders to now include grocery store and supermarket workers. Beginning Saturday, April 11, the men and women who provide critical access to food and other necessities may schedule an appointment to receive COVID-19 testing at the sites located at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro and the Big E fairgrounds in West Springfield.

All appointments must be made in advance by the worker's supervisor or manager, and personnel do not need to be symptomatic to be eligible.

**Massachusetts National Guard Activation:** Yesterday, the Baker-Polito Administration authorized the activation of an additional 3,000 military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard to support the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response. This order raises the total authorization to up to 5,000 members statewide, who may be tasked with supporting requests from state agencies for equipment, logistics, warehousing and related duties. Local cities, towns and state agencies should submit requests for support through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

The activation reflects Governor Baker's statutory authority to activate the Massachusetts National Guard under state active duty to provide necessary assistance to state and municipal civilian authorities.

The Baker-Polito Administration will continue to update the public on developments related to COVID-19. Residents can visit [www.mass.gov/covid19](http://www.mass.gov/covid19) for the latest information, call 2-1-1 with questions, and text "COVIDMA" to 888-777 to subscribe to text-alert updates.

---

## **United Way of Greater New Bedford establishes "Help United," COVID-19 response fund to assist residents effected by the Coronavirus**

In Greater New Bedford, residents are already feeling the impact of COVID-19. Many local businesses have closed or moved to reduced hours, workers are either out of work or struggling to find child care, and schools have been closed until May. It's an uncertain time and many are finding themselves in financial situations where they have to choose between food, rent and/ or medication.

United Way of Greater New Bedford is stepping in to help, and the City of New Bedford is actively supporting the effort. United Way has established the Help United – Greater New Bedford COVID-19 Response Fund to assist residents affected by the Coronavirus. This fund will provide cash assistance to out of work service workers and retired or out of work seniors over 65 in the Greater New Bedford area.

"United Way is no stranger to helping those in most need in our community. We have been working around the clock to ensure

people have what they need during this difficult and uncertain time,” said Michelle N. Hantman, President & CEO. “We’ve set up the Help United Fund to assist residents financially and our Hunger Commission is making sure local food pantries are well stocked.”

The Help United Fund is the only local fund being endorsed by the City of New Bedford and Mayor Jon Mitchell.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has abruptly turned upside down the lives of many of our fellow residents of Greater New Bedford, some of whom will not be eligible for federal relief. It is with them in mind that United Way launched this fund,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell. “I encourage everyone in our region to step forward with whatever you can afford in support of our friends and neighbors.”

Mayor Mitchell has appointed Christian Farland as Chairman of the Help United Response Fund. Mr. Farland is a professional civil engineer and the founder and President of Farland Corporation, Inc., a site contracting company specializing in residential and commercial site development, and the President of Thompson Farland, Inc., a civil engineering land surveying company.

“The impact of the Covid-19 crisis on our community is unprecedented,” said Farland. “As a business owner with deep ties to New Bedford, I am increasingly concerned for the service workers in our cities and towns, laid off or working reduced hours that compromise their ability to provide for their families. I am confident in United Way of Greater New Bedford’s ability to effectively raise and designate resources to those in need, and proud to support this effort.”

You can make a donation to the Help United Fund by texting **HELPUNITED** to 313131 or visiting [unitedwayofgnb.org](https://unitedwayofgnb.org).

“We aren’t sure how long our community will be impacted by the coronavirus, but the more donations we receive, the longer we



will be able to support residents and keep them in their homes,” said Hantman.

Those looking for assistance from the fund can review the guidelines and apply at [unitedwayofgnb.org/help-united](https://unitedwayofgnb.org/help-united).

In addition to the financial assistance to residents, United Way’s Hunger Commission continues to deliver food to pantries in Greater New Bedford. Restaurants with food they are unable to use are encouraged to donate their food to the Hunger Commission by calling 508-994-9625. Those looking for food assistance should visit [unitedwayofgnb.org](https://unitedwayofgnb.org) to see an up-to-date list of open pantries and their hours.

Anyone with questions regarding COVID-19 should dial 2-1-1 to get information. Mass 211 is a 24/7, free, confidential hotline that provides information on local resources. 211 has been designated by the Department of Public Health to answer your questions. Mass 211 is funded by local United Ways.

---

## **New law upends MCAS for current school year, loosens housing assistance rules**

By Chris Lisinski  
State House News Service

MCAS testing requirements for the school year are suspended, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will modify or waive graduation requirements for students set to complete high school this summer, and due dates for district improvement plans will be pushed back under a bill Gov.

Charlie Baker signed into law Friday.

Baker signed the bill (H 4616) one day after the Legislature sent it to him, implementing immediate changes in school districts that have been closed by executive order since March 15. The new law also postpones the MBTA's budget timeline and makes housing assistance benefits easier to acquire remotely.

"Cancelling MCAS testing for the remainder of this school year will enable our teachers and students to focus on learning and personal well-being as we continue to navigate the current public health emergency," Sen. Jason Lewis, co-chair of the Legislature's Education Committee, said in a statement after the branches agreed to the bill Thursday. "Legislators heard loud and clear from teachers, parents and superintendents that this was the right thing to do."

The new law requires Education Commissioner Jeff Riley to vacate the annual requirement for a standardized test in public schools amid disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will also be instructed to modify or waive MCAS competency standards typically required to acquire a high school diploma.

The bill also grants districts breathing room on filing plans to close achievement gaps, which originally were due by April 1 under a seven-year, \$1.5 billion education funding reform law signed last year. Language in the law Baker signed Friday sets the new deadline as May 15 while giving Riley authority to delay it again.

If schools are unable to approve fiscal year 2021 budgets by June 30 because of ongoing social distancing, they can implement stopgap monthly spending plans at one-twelfth the amount of the fiscal year 2020 budget, under the new law.

Baker's current executive order requires all K-12 schools to remain closed through at least May 4, and while the governor has resisted keeping them shuttered through the end of the

academic year, extensions are possible if public health risks continue.

The federal government allowed states to cancel testing requirements if they filed waivers, and at least 40 have done so, according to the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

“Once the governor ordered schools closed until at least May 4, it was obvious to educators and parents that Massachusetts should join the many other states that have already canceled their test-administration requirements this spring,” MTA President Merrie Najimy said shortly before Baker signed the bill.

Najimy reiterated past criticism of the MCAS system and said the pause “provides all of us with an opportunity to rethink the testing requirements.”

The new law also delays statutory budget dates for the MBTA, which has seen ridership drop more than 75 percent and revenues fall by tens of millions of dollars per month during the pandemic.

The Fiscal and Management Control Board now has until May 15 to approve a preliminary budget and until June 15 to submit a final spending plan to the MBTA Advisory Board, rather than March 15 and April 15, respectively.

Before the pandemic slammed Massachusetts, the focus had been on investing more money into the T to ensure its capacity to more efficiently move scores of travelers. For now, the debate around the T has changed.

MBTA officials plan to present more information about the fiscal year 2020 revenue impacts of the outbreak at a Monday meeting, most of which will be conducted remotely.

The new law also allows Massachusetts residents seeking housing assistance to acquire benefits without completing in-

person verification in a state office, enabling people to avoid COVID-19 exposure risks.

Towns cannot terminate essential services offered to residents including water, electricity and trash collection for failure to pay taxes or fees due after Baker declared a state of emergency on March 10, so long as the constituent demonstrates a financial hardship stemming from the outbreak.

“This legislation helps a wide variety of entities deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,” House Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Aaron Michlewitz said. “Whether it’s aiding our cities and towns with the needs of their school districts, to helping homeless providers have greater flexibility in protecting those most in need, the Legislature stands ready to help those most affected by this public health crisis.”

While lawmakers celebrated the bill’s passage in a joint press release featuring eight different legislators, Baker’s signature came with less fanfare.

“Signed it already, and thanked the Legislature for getting it done,” Baker said at his daily coronavirus press briefing when asked about the bill.

---

## **Massachusetts reports 96 new COVID-19 deaths, highest single-day total yet**

On April 10, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 2,033 more positive cases of

COVID-19 bringing to total to 20,974. This is a decrease from Thursday's 2,151 reported cases. 96 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday (4 in Bristol County) bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 599.

As of 4 pm today, 102,372 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 7,447 in the past 24 hours compared to the previous day's total of 7,447.



New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported a third COVID-19 related death in New Bedford today. No further details are being released on the death. 119 positive cases of COVID-19 were also reported Friday morning, up from the **102 cases they reported on Thursday** and up from 81 on Wednesday.

Mayor Mitchell reported **New Bedford's first two COVID-19 related deaths on Wednesday.**

Dartmouth town officials were notified of their first two COVID-19 related deaths. Full details **here.**

Mayor Jon Mitchell, Southcoast Health President and CEO Keith Hovan, and representatives of Essex Group Management Corporation today announced two Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Care Centers in New Bedford for those recovering from COVID-19. Full details with photos and video**here.**

After Fall River set a high in COVID-19 cases in one day, the city saw 6 more cases. According to Mayor Coogan, 97 confirmed cases in Fall River on Friday and of those 26 have recovered and 71 remain active. Full details **here.**

As of April 10, the total amount of cases in The United States is 473,093 with 17,836 total deaths.