

Massachusetts will give vaccine priority to three groups

By Chris Lisinski

State House News Service

Adults over 65 will join frontline health care workers, residents with underlying medical conditions that increase their risks from COVID-19, and other essential workers as the first to qualify for COVID-19 vaccines in Massachusetts, the Baker administration said Tuesday.

During a visit to a new Suffolk Downs testing facility Tuesday, Gov. Charlie Baker outlined a rough sketch of the state's draft plan for distributing an inoculation for the highly infectious virus once it becomes available.

The plan was submitted by the administration to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week.

"The plan also outlines our messaging efforts to make sure people know, once there is a vaccine available, that it has been approved by the federal government and is safe and effective," Baker said. "We'll also make it a priority to reach out specifically to groups that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including people and communities of color."

Massachusetts can expect between 20,000 and 60,000 doses of a vaccine in the first phase of distribution, according to the plan.

Those on the other end of the age range appear to be driving the most significant chunk of new infections: over the past two weeks, young adults between 20 and 39 represented the

highest positive test rate in the state.

The rising infection numbers – higher on Monday than any day since May, albeit with far more tests conducted – prompted Baker and his top deputies to renew their warnings Tuesday against large gatherings and other unregulated social events.

Asked if the uptick in cases would prompt him to scale back reopening, Baker told reporters that most of the recent growth in infections has come not from dining or other public activities, but instead from “informal events and social gatherings.”

“Those are the places and spaces where, if people are asymptomatic, they will give it to somebody else, and neither of them are wearing a mask, and they’re engaged in close contact over an extended period of time,” Baker said. “That’s exactly what happens when people get together to have a house party or a backyard party or some other celebration – the kinds of stuff we used to do, once upon a time, as a matter of course almost every weekend.”

In recent weeks, the state’s COVID enforcement team has observed several private parties bringing together dozens or hundreds of people – often young – in close quarters and with spotty use of masks, according to Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders.

One event in Everett last month “attracted more than 300 people,” she said.

“Typically, these are held on private property, away from all of our eyes, without the owner’s permission,” Sudders said.

Authorities have in some cases broken up events in progress, citing the state’s ban on large gatherings, or prevented them from taking place.

Both Sudders and Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo pointed to a party

that individuals allegedly attempted to organize in the city for Oct. 10. After noticing promotion of the event on social media, State Police contacted those behind the effort and warned them that going through with it would violate COVID regulations.

Arrigo said during the press conference that an individual was arrested in connection with the incident, though a State Police spokesperson told the News Service the arrest was due to an outstanding warrant “unrelated to COVID guideline violations.”

The defendant, 21-year-old Felipe Moreira Oliveria of Chelsea, was arrested on a warrant for malicious damage to a motor vehicle, Massachusetts State Police spokesperson David Procopio wrote in an email.

“We are assisting the COVID command center in identifying organizers of large-scale events that violate the state’s COVID restrictions on large gatherings,” Procopio said. “As part of that mission we recently identified and located two young adult males who were separately planning rave-type gatherings. We made contact with both men and advised them that the events they were planning were in violation of the state COVID order and instructed them to cease and desist planning and advertising those events. In the process of doing that we determined that one of the young men was the subject of an outstanding criminal warrant unrelated to COVID restrictions.”

Baker said during the press conference that those between the ages of 19 and 39 represent “where the vast majority of the increase in positive tests has been happening.”

According to weekly data published by the Department of Public Health, the 20-to-29 and 30-to-39 age groups posted the second- and third-largest increases in total cases between Sept. 2 and Oct. 14 – lagging only the 0-to-19 group.

In terms of total cases, the 0-to-19 age group saw the largest increase between Sept. 2 and Oct. 14 with 996 more cases counted in the weekly DPH report. The second-highest raw increase was for ages 20 to 29, which jumped 816, while the third-highest was for the 30-to-39 cohort, which grew 730.

Altogether, individuals between 20 and 39 represented about 37 percent of total cases in the past two weeks tracked in the DPH's Oct. 14 report.

As infections trend upward, some local officials have increased their efforts to crack down on the kinds of activities – particularly maskless and in close quarters – that health experts warn are most likely to contribute to viral spread.

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh said last week that city departments are planning to increase enforcement, including fines on violations of COVID-19 regulations.

Mattapoissett Fire Rescue responds to rollover incident

Engine 1, Engine 4, and Rescue 1 worked a motor vehicle accident with entrapment on Route 195 east yesterday. Patient was extricated and treated by EMS. Photos from rollover with entrapment:



Mattapoisett Fire Rescue photo.



Mattapoisett Fire Rescue photo.

Bristol Community College's Education Department creates family-friendly COVID-19 information resource

Students and faculty from Bristol Community College's Education Department, including the college's Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Elementary Education programs, have created a free, family-friendly resource for COVID-19 related information using the increasingly popular new digital platform Padlet.

As a component of the department's curriculum, Bristol's COVID-19 Resources Padlet provides an interactive source for families seeking credible information, videos, websites, activities, stories and books related to the current pandemic. The project was developed by Bristol's Education Department Faculty and Staff members: Engin Atasay, Melissa Cardelli, MaryAnn Casavant and Carole Norberg, to engage students in current program-related resources while assisting the community with valuable information.

Bristol Community College Education Department COVID-19 Resources Padlet:
https://padlet.com/melissa_cardelli/yhsup5ulu49038rq

With the guidance of faculty, students in the first year of the ECE program have contributed resources related to mindfulness and assisting children and adults dealing with stress at various levels, while second-year students have contributed activities and materials for children as well as helpful tips for families of children in infant/toddler

programs, preschools and elementary schools.

The multiplatform collaboration tool, Padlet, was chosen for its ease of access to community members, by computer or mobile devices, as well as the ability for students to share and interact with content by uploading and creating materials in one central location. Students were also able to utilize the resources they found and share them or incorporate them into their practicum.

The Padlet tool was also already being utilized by Bristol's ECE faculty to support students constructing their final portfolio for the program. The college's ECE faculty hopes to further expand its use, given the ability to present work using a variety of visual and written modalities, supporting different learning styles.

Lt. Scott Carola appointed to New Bedford Police Department's Public Information Officer role

Chief Joseph Cordeiro has appointed Lt. Scott Carola to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Chief/Public Information Officer (PIO) for the New Bedford Police Department. Lt. Carola is replacing Capt. Nathaniel Rodriguez, who took over command of Station 2 earlier this month. Carola began his career as a corrections officer for Bristol County, working at the Ash St. jail from 97-00. He then joined the NBPd in 2000. In the time since, he has worked as a patrolman, a detective assigned to the "Organized Crime Intelligence

Bureau", a Sergeant in charge of the Gang Unit and most recently, a Detective Lieutenant assigned to the Major Crimes Division. Many will also know Carola as a talented and well-respected artist here in the city.

Carola loves New Bedford, where he is a lifelong resident, and looks forward to serving the community in this new capacity. "The department consistently looks for new and innovative ways to interact and communicate with members of the community," said Cordeiro. "As the tools and channels for communications change and evolve rapidly, I am confident Lt. Carola is well-positioned to provide excellent service."

For more information, please contact Carola at (508) 991-6300 ext. 79427

U.S. Department of Commerce invests \$16 million to support commercial fishing industry in New Bedford

Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$16 million grant to the city of New Bedford, Massachusetts, to make port infrastructure improvements needed to protect commercial fishing businesses from floods and severe weather events. The EDA grant, to be located in a Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Opportunity Zone, will be matched with \$4 million in local funds and is expected to create or retain more than 400 jobs and spur \$4 million in private investment.

“The Trump Administration is committed to helping disaster-impacted American communities obtain the modern infrastructure they need to build resilience against natural disasters,” said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. “These port infrastructure improvements will better protect New Bedford’s commercial fishing industry from flooding, and the project’s location in an Opportunity Zone will drive additional private investment to the community.”

“New Bedford was struck by a severe winter storm with hurricane force winds and flooding in March of 2018,” said Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. “This project will strengthen this vital commercial fishing hub’s resilience to future natural disasters, and its location in an Opportunity Zone will attract transformative investment.”

“Massachusetts’ ports are important economic hubs, and this funding will help ensure critical infrastructure and commercial fishing businesses in New Bedford are protected from future natural disasters and the impacts of climate change,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Our administration is grateful for this partnership with the federal government as we work to create jobs while building a more resilient Commonwealth.”

The funding announced today goes to one of Massachusetts’s 138 Opportunity Zones. Created by President Donald J. Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Opportunity Zones are spurring economic development in economically-distressed communities nationwide. In June 2019, EDA added Opportunity Zones as an Investment Priority, which increases the number of catalytic Opportunity Zone-related projects that EDA can fund to fuel greater public investment in these areas. To learn more about the Commerce Department’s work in Opportunity Zones, please visit EDA’s Opportunity Zones webpage. To learn more about the Opportunity Zone program, see the Opportunity Now resources webpage. To learn more about Opportunity Zone best practices,

see the recently released White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Report to President Trump.

This project is funded by the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 116-20), which provided EDA with \$600 million in additional Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program funds for disaster relief and recovery for areas affected by Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Lane, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and other major natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2018, and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019, under the Robert T. Stafford Act. Please visit EDA's Disaster Supplemental webpage for more information.

Mayor Mitchell issued the following statement on the \$16 Million grant for New Bedford:

"The EDA grant, along with the matching funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the New Bedford Port Authority, represent another major step in our effort to modernize the Port of New Bedford and maintain its standing as America's leading commercial fishing port and the economic hub of Southeastern Massachusetts. Enhancing the resilience of port infrastructure is central to both our economic development strategy and climate adaptation efforts, and that is exactly what this grant will do.

"I am grateful for the support of the Economic Development Administration and Secretary Ross, along with Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito and Secretary Mike Heffernan, for their commitment to the betterment of the Port, our state delegation for their advocacy for the state matching funds, and the congressional delegation for its support.

"I wish to commend the indispensable efforts of Port Director Ed Anthes-Washburn and his team, who skillfully developed the proposal, and worked closely with the eminently dedicated and

capable staffs at EDA, including Deb Beavin, and the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic District, to see it through.”-Mayor Jon Mitchell.

Faces Of New Bedford – #19: Clyde

Meet Clyde, the peace-sign waving local that anyone from New Bedford can recognize. A known staple to the city’s north end, Clyde is always greeting cars and foot traffic as they pass by the corner of Acushnet and Coffin Avenues.



In a brief conversation with Clyde you can tell that he is interested in one thing, love. Although people may be immediately opposed to talking to stranger on the street, Clyde is willing to talk with anyone. He constantly talks about his care for his friends and all people. In his own words, he just wants to show people how it’s like to ‘live like the big man upstairs.’

“To me, it’s all about One love.”

Faces of New Bedford is a project by Colton Simmons. If you are interested in booking a shoot or getting prints from the

series email all inquiries to colton@coltonsimmons.com

Follow Colton on Instagram:
<https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>

Massachusetts State Police remind people to #MoveOver

Police officers have a higher risk of incurring a work-related injury or illness than most other occupations. On average, 115 police and sheriff's patrol officers suffered fatal work injuries each year from 2003 to 2014. Another 30,990 nonfatal injuries involving days away from work were reported for police and sheriff's patrol officers on average each year from 2009 to 2014.

"As a reminder to all drivers... It's the law when approaching stopped emergency blue, red, or yellow lights to slow down and move over. The lives of first responders, construction crews, and tow truck operators depend on it!

Drive safely and #MoveOver"

Massachusetts Environmental Police charge individuals for

illegal use of fishing net

Recently Officers were informed of individuals illegally utilizing a net to capture fish at Coe's Reservoir in Worcester. Upon arrival, the Officer located the individuals in question as they were preparing to leave. When nearing their vehicle, the Officer saw in plain view a net containing a large amount of fish.

An inspection found the net to contain 54 White Perch, 32 Bluegill, 2 Calico Bass, and 2 Carp, resulting in the following charges:

- No Freshwater Fishing License
- Illegal Method of Take (Gill Net)
- Failure to have Permit to Net Carp
- Failure to Produce Fishing Equipment Upon Demand

The fish were found not fit for human consumption and subsequently destroyed.

UMass Dartmouth named National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity

The University hailed for its cybersecurity teaching and research by federal agencies

UMass Dartmouth announces that the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated the university as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity – Cyber Research (CAE-R) through academic year

2025.

UMass Dartmouth received this prestigious classification through the demonstrated success and commitment to prepare students to address national challenges related to cybersecurity as well as advanced faculty research in the field.

“I am proud that UMass Dartmouth has received such a prestigious designation and it is yet another example of how our University is achieving new academic heights,” said UMass Dartmouth Acting Chancellor Mark Preble. “This recognition showcases the incredible work being conducted by our faculty, opportunities for our students, and commitment to the greater good.”

In recent years, UMass Dartmouth has poised itself to be a leader in cybersecurity education and research.

In 2019, UMass Dartmouth signed an agreement with the 102nd Intelligence Wing of the Air National Guard stationed at Joint Base Cape Cod to develop education and workforce training in cybersecurity for personnel at the base and university students. The partnership has allowed 102nd Intelligence Wing staff and UMass Dartmouth faculty to collaborate on the development of cybersecurity undergraduate and graduate programs, certificates, and concentrations. Base staff engaged in cybersecurity efforts serve as mentors for university students and create awareness of cybersecurity career opportunities with the Air National Guard.

“The designation of UMass Dartmouth as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Research (CAE-R) is the culmination of a tremendous amount of work on the part of our faculty, particularly Professor Lance Fiondella who led the effort that resulted in this designation,” noted UMass Dartmouth Acting Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Michael Goodman. “This recognition reflects the

emergence of our College of Engineering as a major player in the critically important field of Cyber Research”.

Identifying the growing federal, state, and local needs, the University established a Cybersecurity Center for cybersecurity education, training, and research. The Center’s mission is to support the needs of industry and government partners by establishing long-term partnerships and collaboration among industry, academe, and government. The Center is composed of faculty who conduct research in a variety of areas alongside graduate and undergraduate students.

“The university has made significant investments to become a leader in education and scholarship in cybersecurity. Since 2018, the College of Engineering has hired six new faculty to become part of a team of approximately one dozen faculty overall who are working collaboratively to address challenges in the security engineering of complex systems. This designation recognizes our commitment to research and education in cybersecurity,” said Dr. Jean VanderGheynst, Dean of the UMass Dartmouth College of Engineering and Interim Dean of the School for Marine Science and Technology.

The University offers an undergraduate concentration and graduate certificate in cybersecurity in the College of Engineering.

New Bedford Police Department to host National Drug Take

Back Day on Oct. 24

New Bedford Police Department Headquarters at 871 Rockdale Ave. will be the New Bedford drop-off location for National Drug Take Back Day set for Oct. 25 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

National Drug Take Back Day is a biannual, free, no-questions-asked event that gives the community the opportunity to aid in the fight against substance use disorder by disposing of potentially dangerous expired, unwanted, or unused prescription drugs. As part of the event, residents can drop off unwanted pills or patches. Liquids, needles and syringes are not accepted.

"The event offers a safe and secure way help eliminate the risk of these drugs, being misused and abused," said Chief Joseph Cordeiro. "It's another pathway to preventing potentially deadly drugs from reaching our streets."

Social distancing guidelines will be followed throughout the event. Masks or cloth face coverings are required amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or Take Back Day please visit. <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.