Massachusetts tops 50,000 positive COVID-19 cases, 20,000 tests in a single day

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update

On April 24, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 4,946 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 50,969. This is an increase from Thursday's 3,079 reported cases. 196 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday, up from 178, bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 2,556.



As of 4 pm today, 215,213 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 20,137 new tests since yesterday.

A Bristol County Sheriff's Office corrections officer has tested positive for COVID-19. Full details **here**.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Chelsea, a city that's been particularly hard hit by the coronavirus, has more than doubled in the past week, according to new state data. Full details **here**.

New Bedford Coronavirus Update

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 58 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford Friday morning, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 410, **up from 352 on Thursday**. No new deaths reported today. New Bedford added two more COVID-19 related death on Thursday bringing the total to 12. No specific details (age, sex of the patient, etc) are available.

Fall River Coronavirus Update

Fall River reported 23 more confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 on Friday. According to Mayor Coogan's Office, Fall River has seen 337 total positive cases. Full details **here**.

Corrections Officer is seventh Bristol County Sheriff's Office staff member to test positive for COVID-19

A Bristol County Sheriff's Office corrections officer has tested positive for COVID-19.

The corrections officer was last at the facility in Dartmouth on Sunday, April 19, when he worked in a housing unit during second shift. The officer became ill during his days off, Monday and Tuesday, and tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, April 22.

He is the seventh Bristol County staff member to test positive for the virus. Three staffers have fully recovered and returned to duty and the others are expected to fully recover and return to work in the coming days and weeks.

"We have always been mindful that staff and their families are out in the community at the grocery store, gas station and other places when shopping or tending to other responsibilities, and that is why we have strict screening, sanitation and reporting requirements in place to minimize the risk of exposure to our staff and inmate population," Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson said. "There are hundreds of essential workers here around the clock, from our security staff to

health care professionals, food services teams and administration, finance, programs and support staff. In the face of a national pandemic, these dedicated corrections professionals continue, day in and day out, to report for duty and work together as a team to maintain our first-class standards of care and custody."

Currently, no one incarcerated in a Bristol County corrections facility has tested positive for the virus. Eight symptomatic prisoners have tested negative.

Over the past month, the Bristol County Sheriff's Office has instituted many protocols to protect inmates, detainees and staff from the Coronavirus outbreak. Some of those measures include:

· All employees were given masks that must be worn inside the secure perimeter of our facilities. All inmates and detainees have also been given masks to wear for protection.

· All areas of the facility are being cleaned\disinfected every day on every shift.

· All staff members are being screened before entering the buildings; new arriving inmates are being screened before being accepted into custody.

· In-person visitation has been suspended to limit the number of people coming in and out.

"There are almost 2,200 confirmed cases in Bristol County and more than 46,000 positives in Massachusetts," Sheriff Hodgson said. "The virus is taking its toll on our neighborhoods, communities, states and our nation. Everyone's on edge, but we will get through this. Saturday's supposed to be a great day weather-wise in Bristol County, so I hope everyone gets some fresh air while maintaining proper social distancing and hygiene. Have a safe weekend everyone."

New Bedford police arrest two after seizing fentanyl and $47,000 from apartment

On April 21, New Bedford Police Department Narcotics Detectives arrested two after raiding a Shirley Street apartment and seizing almost 40 grams of fentanyl and more than $47,000 in cash. Fentanyl is responsible for 93% of all overdose deaths in Massachusetts.

29-year old Jeremy Costa was the target of the search at 14 Shirley St., Apt. C1. Police officers also uncovered digital scales, packaging materials, and other drug-related paraphernalia. Costa was arrested and is being charged with drug trafficking and possession. This is a subsequent drug offense. Also charged with trafficking was 32-year old Lizbeth Caraballo of 14 Shirley St., Apt. C1.

Detective Timothy Soares led the investigation.

If you have any information on criminal activity in your community, the New Bedford Police Dept. wants to hear from you. You can leave an anonymous tip on our voicemail at (508) 991-6300 Ext. 1.

New Bedford reports 58 new

COVID-19 cases since Thursday

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 58 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford Friday morning, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 410, **up from 352 on Thursday**. No new deaths reported today. New Bedford added two more COVID-19 related death on Thursday bringing the total to 12. No specific details (age, sex of the patient, etc) are available.

Southcoast Health's $14 million state-of-the-art intensive care unit at St. Luke's is slated to open soon. Full details **here**.

Fall River reported 47 more confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 on Thursday. According to Mayor Coogan's Office, Fall River has seen 314 total positive cases. 141 cases have cleared isolation. Full details **here**.

While case numbers released by the Massachusetts Department of Health suggest the Bay State isn't out of the woods in the COVID-19 pandemic, a local group is getting ready to show their displeasure over how the virus has been handled. Sarah Rebello, who co-hosts a conservative radio show in Fall River, has organized a rally to take place at Government Center to express what she feels is an unconstitutional lockdown. Full details **here**.

On April 23, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 3,079 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 46,023. This is an increase from Wednesday's 1,745 reported cases. 178 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday, down from 221, bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 2,360. Full details **here**.

RB, the makers of Lysol and Dettol, is warning consumers after recent social media chatter and comments made by President Trump. The company issued a statement Friday stating that

nobody should be injecting or digesting the cleaning products. Full details **here**.

Chelsea COVID-19 cases double in a week- highest infection rate in Massachusetts

Katie Lannan
State House News Service

The number of COVID-19 cases in Chelsea, a city that's been particularly hard hit by the coronavirus, has more than doubled in the past week, according to new state data.

The latest municipal level breakdown of COVID-19 case numbers in Massachusetts, published Wednesday night by the Department of Public Health, showed that Chelsea remains the community with the highest rate of infection, now at nearly 3,842 per 100,000 people. That's more than twice the next-highest rate, Brockton's 1,794 per 100,000.

There were 1,447 COVID-19 cases in Chelsea as of Wednesday's report, up from 712 the previous week. While testing may not capture infected individuals without symptoms, Gov. Charlie Baker has also said that increases in case numbers can reflect the higher number of tests being done as well as who is being tested. Testing ramped up in Chelsea this month, along with efforts to provide meals and isolation spaces after the city was identified as a hotspot.

After Chelsea and Brockton, the communities with the next highest rates per 100,000 are Everett (1,475), Randolph

(1,406), Lynn (1,375), and Lawrence (1,367). The statewide rate is about 616 per 100,000, up from last week's 488.

There are 24 towns that have not reported any COVID-19 cases, and 48 communities with fewer than five cases. Boston has the most cases of any municipality, with 6,744, followed by Brockton's 1,763, Worcester's 1,457, and Chelsea.

Boston's Wahlburgers, delivers free meals to thank first-responders and front-line heroes

"Wahlburgers, the Boston-area based restaurant owned by the Wahlberg brothers, stopped by District C-11 in Dorchester to drop off freshly-made meals while thanking Boston's first responders for the ongoing efforts to keep everybody safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

Officers made sure to respect social distance protocols as they approached and retrieved food from the Wahlburgers food truck.

In addition to the officers at District C-11, Wahlburgers delivered meals to every district station in the city, as well as, every fire and EMS station in Boston. Said Commissioner Gross, "We appreciate Wahlburgers for stepping up to thank and support our officers during these difficult times."

Said Chef Paul Wahlberg, "Being able to reach out to all the firefighters and the police officers and all the hospitals in

Boston is amazing for us. We want to make sure that everybody knows that we're here and the community is out to support them."

All in all, Wahlburgers will prepare and deliver approximately 2,000 freshly made warm meals to first responders, hospital workers and other frontline heroes battling the COVID-19 pandemic here in Boston." -Boston Police Department.

Boston Police Department photos:

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New Bedford roadwork sites

for the upcoming week of April 27, 2020 –May 1, 2020

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of April 27, 2020 –May 1, 2020 and they are as follows:

Eversource:

Eversource will replace the gas mains at the following locations:

• Hathaway Rd. from Valley View Dr. to Rockdale Ave.
• South Front St. from 460 S. Front St. to Gifford St
• Brook St. from Collette St. to Earle St.
• Davis St. from Riverside Ave. to 389 Davis St.
• Thomas St. from #59 to #85 Thomas St.

Eversource will be doing final street and sidewalk restoration at the following locations:

• Carrol St. from Burns St. to Brigham St.
• Priscilla St. from Gould St. to Brigham St.
• Bedford St. from John St. to Rockdale Ave.
• Ryan St. from Bedford St. to Rockdale Ave.
• Kirby St. from Ryan St. to Allen St.
• Farm St. from Rockdale Ave. to John St.
• John St. from Ryan St. to Farm St.
• Whittier St. from Ryan St. to Hawthorn St.
• Plymouth St. from Rockdale Ave. to Whittier St.
• Byron St. from #11 Byron St. to Ryan St.

Other:

• Contractor (PA Landers) to being MassDOT Project #606709, New Bedford- Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work (including signals) along a section of Kings Highway and Tarkiln Hill Road, Construction to take place during regular

working hours (Monday – Friday), police details and traffic controls will be in place.

• The contractor (P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc.) will begin paving water service trenches along Rockland St. (Between Acushnet Ave. and Dartmouth St.), County St. (Between Mosher St. and Wing St.), Fair St. (Between County St. and Dartmouth St.), Dartmouth St. (Between Washington St. and Rockland St.), Grinnell St. (Between Acushnet Ave. and Orchard St.), Washington St. (Between Purchase St. and Dartmouth St.), and Sears St. During work hours, police details and traffic controls will be in place.

• The contractor (P. Gioiso & Sones, Inc.) will also continue sidewalk panel replacements along Branscomb St, Deane St, Holly St and Eugenia St.

• The contractor (WES Construction) is scheduled to continue construction of the new pumping station and installation of the site utilities at the Front St./ Elm St. site. Elm St, between JFK Memorial Highway (RTE 18) and Macarthur Dr. will be closed to westbound traffic. Westbound traffic will be detoured via MacArthur Drive. There will be detour signage and traffic controls in place.

• The Contractor (Green Mountain) will be installing CIPP lining within wastewater piping at the locations listed below. This work will take place after 9:00 PM. During working hours, police details and traffic controls will be in place.

Monday: JFK Memorial Hwy, Tuesday: Fisherman’s Wharf and Shawmut Ave, Wednesday: Fisherman’s Wharf and MacArthur Drive, Thursday: Front St.

• Due to ongoing construction at the High Hill Reservoir residents may experience discolored water. The water is safe, and the discoloration will be temporary. We recommend allowing the water to settle for a few hours and then flushing your service line by letting the bathtub run for a few minutes until the water clears.

• Department of Public Infrastructure will be filling potholes on a continuous basis throughout the city.

• Department of Public Infrastructure conducting its annual

street sweeping program city-wide.

* Please note: contractors will continue to follow guidelines and protocol regarding COVID-19 social distancing while conducting work in construction zone.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the Department of Public Infrastructure will be closed to the public entry. Office staff is available to assist by email and telephone.

Walmart launches “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program to help customers get groceries delivered during COVID-19 pandemic

Walmart and Nextdoor announced today the launch of their “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program, an effort to make it easier for neighbors across the country to help one another during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through this new program, a first for both companies, Nextdoor members in cities across the country can now request assistance – or offer to help someone in their community – with shopping for their essential items at Walmart. This support network makes it easier for vulnerable community members to coordinate the pickup and delivery of their groceries, medications and other essentials with a neighbor who is already planning a shopping trip to their local Walmart store – completely contact-free.

The new “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” initiative follows recent moves by Walmart to make other shopping services, like checking out with Walmart Pay and its curbside pickup and delivery services, contact-free.

“I’ve seen firsthand the countless ways our Walmart team is working together during this challenging time, leading with humanity, compassion and understanding to serve our customers,” said Janey Whiteside, Walmart’s chief customer officer. “We’re continuing to do that through our new program with Nextdoor. We’re connecting neighbors to each other so that more members of our communities have access to essential items, while limiting contact and the number of people shopping in our stores.”

If a Nextdoor member wants help shopping for needed items or wants to offer their help to do so, it’s as easy as visiting Nextdoor.com or logging on to the Nextdoor app, which is available on both iOS and Android phones. From there, members click on the “Groups” tab and will see Walmart stores in their area pinned to the top of the page. Members will then be prompted to share a message in the group feed where they can indicate if they need help or want to help. Once members connect in the feed they can work out details of the shopping trip on the message board or direct message each other to work on the specifics. Neighbors are encouraged to utilize contact-free payment options and delivery methods.

“We’re inspired every day by the kindness of people around the world who are stepping up and helping out. In recent weeks, we’ve been blown away by the number of members who have raised their hands to run an errand, go to the grocery store or pick up a prescription for a neighbor,” said Sarah Friar, Nextdoor CEO. “We’re grateful for Walmart’s partnership to make this important connection between neighbors around vital services, and we’re proud to come together to ensure everyone has a neighborhood to rely on.”

The “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” program builds on Nextdoor’s recently launched “Groups” feature which enables members to organize around a shared interest or project. Over the last few weeks, Nextdoor has seen a 7x increase in people joining groups to help one another – from checking in with the elderly and vulnerable to running errands for those who simply need a helping hand.

Walmart store locations and hours where “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” is available can be found on Nextdoor’s “Help Map.”

Dartmouth House of Corrections staff member tests positive for COVID-19; zero prisoners test positive

A Bristol County Sheriff’s Office corrections officer has tested positive for COVID-19.

According to a BCSO spokesperson, the corrections officer left work after becoming ill in the early morning hours of Sunday, April 19, during a third-shift assignment in a control room at the Bristol County House of Corrections in Dartmouth. He received a COVID-19 test later on April 19 and was notified of a positive test on Monday, April 20.

“There have been almost 2,000 confirmed cases of the virus in Bristol County overall,” Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson said Thursday morning. “We feel very fortunate that every staff member who has tested positive at the Sheriff’s Office has either made a full recovery and returned to duty or is feeling

okay and expected back soon.”

The officer is the sixth Bristol County staff member to test positive for COVID-19. A nurse, K9 officer and a corrections officer have fully recovered and returned to duty. A mental health professional and two corrections officers, including this most recent one, are expected to make full recoveries and return to duty soon.

Currently, no one incarcerated in a Bristol County corrections facility has tested positive for the virus. Eight symptomatic prisoners have tested negative.

Over the past month, the Bristol County Sheriff’s Office has instituted many protocols to protect inmates, detainees and staff from the Coronavirus outbreak. Some of those measures include:

• All employees were given masks that must be worn inside the secure perimeter of our facilities. All inmates and detainees have also been given masks to wear for protection.

• All areas of the facility are being cleaned\disinfected every day on every shift.

• All staff members are being screened before entering the buildings; new arriving inmates are being screened before being accepted into custody.

• In-person visitation has been suspended to limit the number of people coming in and out.

“The support we’ve received from the community has been outstanding and it means a lot to our health care professionals, food services team, corrections officers and every other essential worker here who keeps our operation running around the clock,” Sheriff Hodgson said. “The next few weeks are expected to be rough, so I can’t stress enough to the people of Bristol County the importance of staying home if

possible and practicing strict hygiene protocols. We'll get through this together."

Massachusetts conducts 14,614 COVID-19 cases – nearly double previous high

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update

On April 23, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 3,079 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 46,023. This is an increase from Wednesday's 1,745 reported cases. 178 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday, down from 221, bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 2,360.

As of 4 pm today, 195,076 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 14,614 new tests since yesterday. The previous high was 8,750 new tests on April 16.

Southcoast Health's $14 million, state of the art intensive care unit at St. Luke's is slated to open soon. Full details **here**.

Massachusetts labor officials reported another wave of surging new unemployment claims Thursday, bringing the total in Massachusetts over the past five weeks to more than 650,000, largely ex-workers whose employers are in forced shutdowns. Full details **here**.

New Bedford Coronavirus Update

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 13 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford Thursday morning, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 352, **up from 339 on Wednesday**. New Bedford added two more COVID-19 related death on Thursday bringing the total to 12. No specific details (age, sex of the patient, etc) are available.

Sadly, Teresa Maria Raposo Cordeiro, New Bedford Police Chief Joeseph Cordeiro's mom, passed away on Saturday to COVID-19. She was 84 years old. Full details **here**.

New Bedford's Zeiterion stage will be dark through August 2. Full details **here**.

While New Bedford's **Cape Verdean Recognition Parade** and **Memorial Day parade** have been canceled, and **Fall River's Day of Portugal has been postponed**, the **2020 Feast of the Blessed Sacrament** in New Bedford is still moving forward as planned. This year's festival is scheduled for July 30-31 and August 1-2. Full details **here**.

New Bedford's 2020 Memorial Day parade, scheduled for Monday, May 25, has been canceled due to social distancing measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Full details **here**.

Fall River Coronavirus Update

Fall River reported 47 more confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. According to Mayor Coogan's Office, Fall River has seen 314 total positive cases. 141 cases have cleared isolation. Full details **here**.