

New York ready to send 400 ventilators to Massachusetts

Colin A. Young

State House News Service

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Sunday that his state has already identified 400 ventilators that it could send to Massachusetts.

New York and especially New York City had been the primary epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, but the Empire State has seen encouraging numbers in recent days and Cuomo has suggested his state has reached the apex of its curve.

Massachusetts is “right in the middle of the surge now,” Gov. Charlie Baker said Sunday and has for weeks been working to secure more ventilators. Cuomo said Sunday that he has spoken to Baker and told him that New York is going to “be there for you” and could deliver 400 ventilators to Massachusetts “on 24 hours notice,” CNN reported.

Massachusetts officials report 146 new COVID-19 related deaths since Saturday

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update

On April 19, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,705 more positive cases of

COVID-19 bringing to total to 38,077. This is a decrease from Saturday's 1,970 reported cases. 146 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday, down from 156, bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 1,706.

As of 4 pm today, 162,241 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 5,435 in the past 24 hours compared to the previous day's total of 8,062. Sundays have been consistently the lowest testing day of the week.

On the heels of the two deadliest days so far in Massachusetts, Gov. Charlie Baker said Sunday morning that "we're right in the middle of the surge now" and a top White House official highlighted the state as an area where the continued spread of COVID-19 is a concern. Full details [here](#).



New Bedford Coronavirus Update

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported three additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford Saturday morning, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 183, **up from 180 yesterday**. The total COVID-19 related deaths in New Bedford remains at nine. Mayor Mitchell's office reported another death on Saturday afternoon and **one new COVID-19 related death on Thursday**. No specific details (age, sex of the patient, etc) is available. New Bedford does not report cases on Sunday.

New Bedford's Annual Cape Verdean Recognition Parade has been canceled. This year's parade would have been the 48th year. Full details [here](#).

Due to Patriots' Day, Monday, April 20, there will be no residential trash and recycling collection on Monday, April 20 in New Bedford. Full details [here](#).

Fall River Coronavirus Update

According to Mayor Coogan, Fall River reported two more positive cases on Saturday. Full details [here](#).

Massachusetts now at center of national outbreak

By Colin A. Young
State House News Service

On the heels of the two deadliest days so far in Massachusetts, Gov. Charlie Baker said Sunday morning that “we’re right in the middle of the surge now” and a top White House official highlighted the state as an area where the continued spread of COVID-19 is a concern.

Massachusetts reported 156 deaths on Saturday and a single-day high of 159 fatalities on Friday, bringing the COVID-19 death toll here to 1,560 people. Nearly 2,000 new cases of infection reported Saturday brought the total number of cases in Massachusetts to 36,372 as the state continues to deal with an influx of cases.

“We’re still very much focused on Boston and across Massachusetts where the epidemic continues to spread across Massachusetts as well as in Boston, and we’re watching very closely Chicago,” White House coronavirus response coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx said on CBS’s Face the Nation. “And then we watch every single outbreak that occurs in different states around the United States including the most recent one in Ohio.”

Birx called the pandemic “a series of small epidemics across the United States,” but Boston was the first place she

mentioned when asked where her concerns lie.

At 528 cases per 100,000 people, Massachusetts has the third most cases per capita of any state in the country, according to data compiled by the New York Times. Only New York and New Jersey outpace the Bay State. At 23 deaths per 100,000 residents, Massachusetts has the sixth most deaths per capita.

"The surge is in different places, in different states, at different times. We're in a very different place here in Massachusetts than other states are," Baker said during his own segment on Face the Nation. "We're right in the middle of the surge now."

Much of Baker's Sunday morning remote interview with Margaret Brennan, though, focused on what might come after the surge and what needs to happen for Massachusetts and other states to resume more normal levels of economic and social activity, like a significant increase in testing for the highly-contagious virus.

Asked whether there needs to be a national strategy for testing, Baker said he appreciates that the federal government recognizes that different states are in different stages of dealing with the pandemic but that there is a role for federal involvement, "especially the ability to put the foot on the accelerator with respect to advancements in testing."

"Everything associated with testing, ultimately has to be approved by the CDC and the FDA, as it should be," he said. "The state shouldn't be making their own decisions on that stuff."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration also have an important role to play in working with companies to develop effective treatments for COVID-19 patients and, eventually, a vaccine.

"They approve and drive a lot of the policy and what

ultimately becomes sort of the facts on the ground with respect to testing and treatments,” Baker said. “And in a state where there are a number of companies that are deeply invested in either the development of treatments or vaccines or have hospitals that are involved in clinical trials associated with treatments for COVID-19, the federal government’s role with respect to treatments is enormously important.”

Baker did not directly answer when asked if Massachusetts needs more federal funding as part of a relief package Congress has been discussing, but he talked about the ways in which the federal government would need to help states if the economy is to make a rebound.

“I think every state in the country is struggling with what the hit to their economy has done to their balance sheet and to their budgets. And if the feds are interested in sort of reopening the economy – and they’ve certainly talked a lot about the importance of stimulating the economy going forward – for states to be able to support that initiative, obviously it’s important for the feds to support our efforts to fund the stuff we do,” he said.

Massachusetts, like other states, is expecting a sizable revenue shortfall to materialize while demand and costs for public benefit programs are climbing. Last week, the bipartisan National Governors Association called on Congress to provide at least \$500 billion specifically for states to address budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic.

“If we’re laying off tens of thousands of people at exactly the time when they want to reopen the economy, we’re going to be swimming against the current they’re trying to create,” Baker said.

Also on Face the Nation, former FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb, who serves on Baker’s COVID-19 Advisory Board, said

there may be a few drugs capable of treating COVID-19 in patients by this fall.

“We may have one or more treatments by the fall. I don’t think any one is going to be a home run, but we may have something that can help,” he said.

Though widespread availability of a COVID-19 vaccine is thought to be a year or more away, Gottlieb said Sunday that a vaccine might be ready for testing in America by this fall, and that it could be pressed into use if an area sees a second-wave outbreak of the viral infection.

“In terms of the vaccine here in the United States, we may have hundreds of thousands of doses available in the fall for testing and if there is an outbreak – a big outbreak in an American city – I think it would be made available in the city under some kind of protocol,” he said. “So we would have it available in the setting of an outbreak, certainly not a national epidemic like we have right now.”

Wrong-Way Crash Kills Two in Westborough, Massachusetts

Last evening at approximately 8:42 p.m., the State Police – Millbury Barracks received reports of a wrong-way driver on I-495 Southbound, near Exit 21 in Hopkinton. Shortly thereafter, callers reported a head-on crash on I-495 Southbound just north of Exit 22 in the town of Westborough.

Upon arrival, troopers discovered one of the two vehicles involved in the crash, matched the description of the wrong-way vehicle. Preliminary investigation has revealed that a

2017 Volvo XC60, driven by Viktoria I. Staskievich, 43, of Braintree, was travelling northbound on I-495 Southbound, when it struck a 2018 Chevrolet Trax head-on. Staskievich was the only occupant of the Volvo. The Chevrolet was driven by Adam Nazare, 27, of Attleboro.

Staskievich was transported to UMass Lakeside in Worcester, where she was later determined to be deceased as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. Nazare was determined to be deceased on scene, as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. Nazare's passenger, a 83-year-old woman from Attleboro, was also transported to UMass Lakeside in Worcester, where she remains in critical condition.

During the crash investigation and reconstruction, all lanes were closed to travel, with traffic diverted off I-495 at Exit 23A/B in Westborough. All lanes were opened at approximately 11:47 p.m.

The remaining facts and circumstances remain under investigation by troopers assigned to the State Police Millbury Barracks, Troop C Headquarters, State Police Crime Scene Services Section (CSSS), State Police Collision Analysis Reconstruction Section (CARS), Westborough Police Department, Westborough Fire & EMS Departments, Hopkinton Fire & EMS Departments, Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MA DOT) all assisted on scene.

Dartmouth Police Department

seeks public's help in identifying female who allegedly tried to pass a fraudulent prescription

"Calling all cAHs...Calling all cAHs

DPD is looking for some help identifying this female, who recently attempted to pass a fraudulent prescription at a local pharmacy.

Based on the grimace she was making when the image was captured, we believe that the script was for medication associated with constipation. However, that is just speculative at this point in time.

After exiting the store, the female left the area in the white sedan also pictured below (for all of you CSI'ers out there, the plate was not legible).

If you have any information that can help us identify her, you can either send us a private message, or call Detective Kyle Costa at 508-910-1755.

Thank you!

PLEASE SHARE"



Dartmouth Police Departmetn photo.

Massachusetts A.G. Maura Healey releases COVID-19 resources for knowing and protecting your rights

"We hope this message finds you well. We are writing with an URGENT ask to assist your communities during these difficult times. Our office has prepared two important informational posters regarding access to health care and other rights for community members during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we'd like to ask you to please distribute it widely to as many people as possible.

Everyone should immediately seek assistance to health care, should they need it, if COVID-19 related symptoms or any other medical need. It is also important for everyone to know that health care is available regardless of immigration status. So please distribute the information attached to this message to your communities at your place of worship and abroad, and let us know if we can be of any assistance.

DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS YOU ARE PROTECTED:

- **FROM EVICTION & FORECLOSURE**

Landlords cannot evict or threaten to evict their tenants. Mortgage companies cannot foreclose on homeowners. During this crisis, your home is secure.

- **FROM DEBT COLLECTION**

Harassment from debt collectors is prohibited. They cannot

come to your home or workplace, file lawsuits against you, repossess your car, or garnish your wages.

- **FROM UTILITY SHUTOFFS**

Utilities are prohibited from shutting off your gas or electricity. You should be able to keep your lights on and hot water running.

- **FROM PRICE GOUGING**

Businesses cannot charge inflated prices on common goods and critical items like masks, hand sanitizer and gloves.

- **WHEN SEEKING HEALTH CARE**

If you feel sick, seek health care. Insurance covers COVID-19 testing and treatment. For immigrants not eligible for public health insurance programs, MassHealth Limited will cover the cost.

- **FROM DISCRIMINATION**

You cannot be discriminated against because of your race, ethnicity, national origin, disability or other protected category in housing or when seeking health care.

- **YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR**

MassUndocuFund, mutual aid organizations, and worker organizations are providing small cash grants for undocumented people and others who might not be eligible for other assistance. Jobs with Justice has more information.

- **ASSISTANCE FROM NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

You may apply for unemployment benefits if you lose your job and are authorized to work in the United States. File a claim with the Division of Unemployment Assistance.

- **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Under Massachusetts law, workers are eligible for benefits from their employers, including earned sick time, regardless of their immigration status. Additional sick leave and paid family leave may be available through the Families First

Coronavirus Response Act.

- **EARNED SICK TIME**

Uninsured residents may qualify for coverage through the Health Connector's extended open enrollment period.

- **HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE CASH ASSISTANCE**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act), provides one-time cash payments of \$1,200 for individuals, \$2,400 for couples, and \$500 per child for anyone who files taxes with a social security number. Other benefits, including SNAP (food stamps), TAFDC (welfare for families with children), and WIC may be available through the Departments of Transitional Assistance and Public Health.

For Immigrants:

- **EQUAL ACCESS TO CARE**

You have a right to health care regardless of your immigration status. Don't be afraid to seek medical care. Go to your community health center if you are sick, injured, or receiving routine care. Call your doctor if you are coughing, feverish, feeling tired, or lacking sense of smell; or suspect that you have been exposed to the virus.

You have the right to safely get tested and seek care. Federal and state privacy laws require health care providers to keep patients' personal information confidential (including immigration status). There are government resources available to you.

MassHealth Limited can pay for testing and treatment for immigrants not eligible for other government programs. MassHealth Limited will NOT be considered for Public Charge decisions, meaning it will not affect access to a Green Card.

Tiene derecho a la atención médica independientemente de su estado migratorio. No tengas miedo de buscar atención médica.

Vaya al centro de salud de su comunidad si está enfermo, lesionado o recibe atención de rutina. Llame a su médico si tiene tos, fiebre, cansancio o falta de olfato; o sospecha que ha estado expuesto al virus.

Tiene derecho a hacerse la prueba de manera segura y buscar atención. Las leyes de privacidad federales y estatales requieren que los proveedores de atención médica mantengan la confidencialidad de la información personal de los pacientes (incluido el estado migratorio). Hay recursos gubernamentales disponibles para usted.

MassHealth Limited puede pagar las pruebas y el tratamiento para inmigrantes que no son elegibles para otros programas gubernamentales. MassHealth Limited NO será considerado para decisiones de carga pública, lo que significa que no afectará el acceso a una tarjeta verde.

This message is from the office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.”

CONTACT US

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS

(617) 963-2917

HEALTH CARE HELPLINE

(888) 830-6277

MAIN HOTLINE

(617) 727-8400

WORKER ISSUES

(617) 727-3465

AGO RESOURCES

mass.gov/ago/covid19

Massachusetts officials report 156 new COVID-19 related deaths since Friday

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update

On April 17, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,970 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 36,372. This is a decrease from Friday's 2,221 reported cases. 156 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday, down from 159, bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 1,560.

As of 4 pm today, 156,806 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 8,062 in the past 24 hours compared to the previous day's total of 7,971



New Bedford Coronavirus Update

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported three additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford Saturday morning, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 183, **up from 180 yesterday**. The total COVID-19 related deaths in New Bedford remains at nine. Mayor Mitchell's office reported another death on Saturday afternoon and **one new COVID-19 related death on Thursday**. No specific details (age, sex of the patient, etc) is available.

New Bedford's Annual Cape Verdean Recognition Parade has been canceled. This year's parade would have been the 48th year.

Full details [here](#).

Due to Patriots' Day, Monday, April 20, there will be no residential trash and recycling collection on Monday, April 20 in New Bedford. Full details [here](#).

Fall River Coronavirus Update

According to Mayor Coogan, Fall River has 178 total cases of COVID-19 as of Friday. 82 individuals have recovered. Full details [here](#).

Senator Warren calls on banks to end the seizure of stimulus checks

United States Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, sent letters to banks and credit unions – through their trade organizations: the American Bankers Association, Bank Policy Institute, Consumer Bankers Association, Independent Community Bankers of America, National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, and the Credit Union National Association – urging them to cease the seizure of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act stimulus payments from hardworking American families. The senators' push follows recent reports that banks are seizing the CARES Act stimulus payments from their customers to pay themselves.

“During this time of crisis, we must come together to protect our collective health and mitigating the financial blow that Covid-19 is taking on our workers and our economy. We ask that your member banks do the right thing—for their customers, our country, and our economy—and publicly commit that they will not offset their customers’ stimulus payments to pay for any fees, charges, or allegedly past due debts,” wrote the senators.

Earlier this month Senator Warren joined Senators Brown and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) in calling for Treasury Sec. Mnuchin to protect stimulus payments from being garnished by debt collectors.

2020-04-15 Letter to ABA re offsets

Three more COVID-19 cases reported in New Bedford, total up to 183

UPDATE: New Bedford health officials reported one more COVID-19 related death since this article was published.

Mayor Jon Mitchell’s office reported three additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford Saturday morning, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 183, **up from 180 yesterday**. The total COVID-19 related deaths in New Bedford remains at nine. Mayor Mitchell’s office reported another death on Saturday and **one new COVID-19 related death on Thursday**. No specific details (age, sex of the patient, etc) is available.

Due to Patriots' Day, Monday, April 20, there will be no residential trash and recycling collection on Monday, April 20 in New Bedford. Full details [here](#).

According to Mayor Coogan, Fall River has 178 total cases of COVID-19 as of Friday. 82 individuals have recovered. Full details [here](#).

On April 17, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 2,221 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 34,402. This is a decrease from Thursday's 2,263 reported cases. 159 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported since yesterday, up from 137, bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 1,404. Full details [here](#).

Governor Baker yesterday outlined its ongoing comprehensive strategy to address homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Administration also announced additional support for foster families and a new emergency order authorizing the creation of emergency childcare sites. Full details [here](#).

A bill that hospital representatives said would provide urgently needed new legal protections to health care professionals working in unprecedented situations during the COVID-19 crisis passed the state Senate on Thursday. Full details [here](#).

New Bedford's Cape Verdean parade canceled

New Bedford's Annual Cape Verdean Recognition Parade has been canceled. This year's parade would have been the 48th year.

According to **a post in the Facebook group**, the organizers canceled the parade as it was “necessary to prioritize the health and safety of our participants, vendors and our committee members”.

The New Bedford Mayor’s office confirmed the cancelation but wasn’t aware of any specific details.

Here’s a look at last year’s parade.