

Massachusetts death total from COVID-19 passes 8,000

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The state's death toll from COVID-19 surpassed 8,000 on Friday, with the report of 50 new fatalities. Thirty-nine of those deaths were among patients with test-confirmed cases of COVID-19, while the other 11 were from probable cases, which the Department of Public Health defines as someone with a positive antibody test who either had COVID-like symptoms or experienced likely exposure to the respiratory disease.

Of the 8,013 people in Massachusetts whose deaths are attributed to COVID-19, the bulk – 4,996 people – were aged 80 and older. Sixty-three percent of the deaths, or 5,051, were reported in long-term care facilities.

The state's total caseload now stands at 108,070, including 103,071 test-confirmed cases and 4,999 probable cases indicated by antibody tests. Friday's report included 149 new confirmed cases, from 8,545 viral tests, and 84 new probable cases.

The seven-day weighted average of the positive molecular test has been below 2 percent since June 20, according to the Department of Public Health, but ticked up slightly on June 25, to 1.9 percent from 1.8 percent the previous two days. The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 dropped by 31 in Friday's report, to 791, with 156 patients in intensive care units and 99 intubated. Two of the state's hospitals were using their surge capacity, down from four the previous day.