EMERGENCY ALERTS

Coronavirus Update

COVID-19 Vaccine: Safe, effective, free. Get the vaccine today: *Jun. 2nd, 2021, 9:25 am* Read more

COVID-19 Updates and Information: All restrictions lifted effective May 29 *Jun. 3rd, 2021, 12:01 am* Read more

HIDE ALERTS

Mass.gov

PRESS RELEASE

College and university testing data added to COVID-19 weekly public health report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

9/16/2020

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

MEDIA CONTACT

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BOSTON — The Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center today announced that higher education data from COVID-19 testing will be reported on a weekly basis on the state's COVID-19 dashboard. Today's report includes aggregate data from 59 colleges and universities doing testing on campus.

Beginning today, the COVID-19 Weekly Public Health report published each Wednesday will include a report on the number of tests performed, positive cases, percent positivity, and the percent of new cases identified through testing by public and private colleges and universities. As additional colleges and universities launch COVID-19 testing initiatives, results from those tests will be added to this report.

Starting in mid-August, higher education institutions across the state implemented regular testing programs for their students, faculty and staff, the results of which have been included in the COVID-19 Daily Dashboard

(/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting). DPH will continue to report these results in the Daily Dashboard, in addition to providing specific information on college and university testing in the Weekly Public Health report.

Massachusetts continues to be a national leader in ensuring access to COVID-19 testing, with a network of over 250 sites across the state. The Commonwealth has also increased access to testing with its **Stop the Spread initiative** (/info-details/stop-the-spread), which provides free asymptomatic testing in targeted communities. Throughout the summer, the Commonwealth has significantly increased testing volume, with over 3 million tests completed. Learn more about testing at **www.mass.gov/gettested** (/gettested).

For further information and resources regarding COVID-19 response at Massachusetts colleges and universities, including links to individual campus websites and the COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan, please **click here** (https://www.mass.edu/covid-19/home.asp). You can learn more about the Commonwealth's health and safety standards for higher education institutions by **clicking here** (/info-details/reopening-higher-education).

The state provides a snapshot of the COVID-19 impact in Massachusetts on its Daily Dashboard posted each day by 4 p.m. and on Wednesdays by 6 p.m. The COVID-19 dashboard includes daily and cumulative data on confirmed cases; molecular, antibody, and antigen testing by date; cases by sex/race/ethnicity; hospitalizations, hospital capacity and census; and deaths.

The Weekly Public Health report published each Wednesday includes more granular information, including cases and case rate by age, town-by-town case and testing information, a map of high, medium, and lower-risk communities, updates on nursing facility survey results, and the distribution of Personal Protection Equipment. In addition, the online COVID-19 dashboard includes additional data reported as part of the requirements of the recently approved Chapter 93 legislation. These include data reports on COVID-19 cases in county correctional facilities, elder facilities, and childcare facilities.

Both the Daily Dashboard and Weekly Public Health report can be found **here** (/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting).

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Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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The Executive Office of Health and Human Services is the largest secretariat in state government and is comprised of 12 agencies, in addition to 2 soldiers' homes and the MassHealth program. Our efforts are focused on the health, resilience, and independence of the one in four residents of the Commonwealth we serve. Our public health programs touch every community in the Commonwealth.

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