



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Public Health

Helping People Lead Healthy Lives In Healthy Communities

## **Health and Medical Operations Planning for the 121<sup>st</sup> Running of the Boston Marathon**

# **Public Health Council Briefing**

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# Event Overview

- April 17, 2017
- Participants
  - 30,000 Official Entrants
  - 10,000 Volunteers
  - 1,900 Medical Personnel
- Spectators
  - ± 500,000



# Course Information

- Start Location: East Main Street, Hopkinton
- Finish Location: Boylston Street, Copley Square, Boston
- Course crosses through the communities of Hopkinton, Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton, Brookline and Boston



# Medical Considerations

- Expect > 1,000 runners & spectators may require medical care
- Dehydration
- Blisters
- Exercise-related heat illness –cramping, heat syncope, exhaustion, heat stroke
- Over-hydration
- Debilitating Muscle Spasms
- Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack)
- Stress Fractures
- Intoxication

# Emergency Department Volume

Hospital Emergency Department Volume	2014	2015	2016
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	31	4	11
Boston Medical Center	12	0	2
Brigham & Women's Hospital	16	6	8
Massachusetts General Hospital	17	7	9
Metro West Medical Center - Framingham	6	0	3
Metro West Medical Center - Natick	5	5	7
Miford Regional Medical Center	2	2	1
Newton-Wellesley Hospital	54	6	28
St. Elizabeth's Hospital	12	7	11
Tufts Medical Center	40	5	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>106</b>

# Pre-Marathon – Planning for a Mass Casualty Incident

Multi-agency, multi-disciplinary planning process

- State agencies
- 8 communities
- Private organizations – Boston Athletic Association & others

Detailed operations plan & medical manual that is tested through tabletop and function exercises

# Post 2013 Boston Marathon Planning

- Resources Along the Route
  - Medical Support from National Guard
  - Ambulance Strike Teams
  - Emergency Medical Service Trailers
- Patient Tracking & Family Reunification
  - Collaboration with Hospitals & Red Cross
- Air Quality Monitoring

# Health and Medical Operations Plan

## **DPH coordinates with**

- Department of Mental Health
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- American Red Cross
- Region 1 Health and Human Services
- Boston Public Health Commission

# 2017 Planning Priorities

- Enhance pre-event and day-of **communication with hospitals** along the route
- Sustain **EMS capabilities** in the event of a Mass Casualty Incident
- Plan for **patient tracking and family reunification** in the event of an MCI
- Support robust **staffing plan**
- Provide **situational awareness** of events occurring along and around the Marathon route

# Communication with Route Hospitals

- Pre-Planning
  - Written updates
  - Conference calls
  - In-person meeting
- Marathon Day
  - Bed counts
  - Conference calls
  - Situational awareness
  - Alerts and notification

# Staffing Plan

- Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MEMA)
- Department Operations Center
- Boston Medical Intelligence Center
- Boston Athletic Association Operations Center
- Starting Line
- Newton-Wellesley Hospital
- 26 Medical Tents
- Finish Line

# Staffing Plan



## *Representing*

**Commissioner's Office  
Community Health and Prevention  
Emergency Medical Services  
Environmental Health  
Family Health and Nutrition  
Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences  
Information Technology Services  
Preparedness and Emergency Management**

# Situational Awareness Along the Course

DPH staff in medical and finish line tents provide situational awareness for:

- Number of patients being treated
- Nature of their treatment
- Number of patient transports
- Capacity at finish line tents

# Patient Encounters in Medical Tents

	2014	2015	2016
<b>Course Medical Tents 1-26</b>	<b>1866</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>1191</b>
<b>Finish Line Tent A</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>777</b>
<b>Finish Line Tent B</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>676</b>

# Situational Awareness

- Establish Common Operating Picture
  - Situation Reports
  - WebEOC
  - Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN)

# Questions?



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