



Updated Mask Policy at Blood Drives

A critical need for blood donors still exists here in Massachusetts and around the country. With COVID-19 cases surging once again, the health and safety of everyone attending American Red Cross blood drives continues to be a top priority.

Therefore, all staff and volunteers must now wear masks *regardless of vaccination status* to help protect everyone's health and safety. Although the Red Cross recognizes that the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance states that only areas of high or substantial transmission need to resume mask wearing, transmission rates at the county level are constantly changing and our goal is to implement a single, organization-wide policy that is safe and consistent for all.



To thank donors who help ensure a strong blood and platelet supply this month, all who come to give throughout August will receive a free 4-month special offer to Apple Music by email (new subscribers only). More details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/FeelTheBeat](https://www.redcrossblood.org/FeelTheBeat).

Help Wanted: Additional Shelter Volunteers, Health Professionals, and DAT Members



By all accounts, we're in for another destructive hurricane and wildfire season. To be able to provide relief on a moment's notice, the Red Cross relies on a deep bench of trained workers prepared for both national deployments and disaster relief right here in Massachusetts.

The Red Cross needs new volunteers to support disaster shelters. Volunteers help with reception, registration, food distribution, dormitory, information collection, and other vital tasks.

The Red Cross also needs volunteers who can address people's health needs and provide hands-on care in alignment with their professional licensure (registered nurse and licensed practical nurse/licensed vocational nurse). Daily observation and health screening for COVID-19-like illness among shelter residents may also be required. If you are an RN, LPN, LVN, APRN, NP, EMT, paramedic, MD/DO, or PA with a current and unencumbered license, this position could be right for you.

After most disasters this year, the Red Cross plans to open group shelters. However, in some communities, hotels may be more appropriate if the risk of COVID-19, including the delta variant, is particularly high. The Red Cross will also continue many of the safety precautions implemented in 2020, including masks, health screenings, enhanced cleaning procedures, and encouraging social

distancing.

Local Disaster Action Teams provide 24-hour emergency response to local disasters, particularly home fires, ensuring that those affected have access to resources for basic necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing. If you are team-oriented and want to help your neighbor, a DAT responder may be just the thing for you.

Last year, the Massachusetts region provided immediate emergency assistance to more than 4,800 people after 706 home fires and other disasters.

If you want to make a difference and are interested in helping your community, please visit [redcross.org/volunteer](https://www.redcross.org/volunteer) or email MAVolunteers@redcross.org.

Are You Ready for Deployment?

With hurricane season in full swing, we need everyone ready!

Remember to set your deployment availability in Volunteer Connection and also check your training.



Welcome New DCS Staff!

Please welcome the following four new employees to the Disaster Cycle Services team:



Collin Buckner
Disaster Program Manager, Southeastern MA Chapter

After graduating from Miami University in Ohio in 2018, Collin served a year with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. He served with the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee and the Town of Falmouth Marine and Environmental Services, updating the county's HAZMAT plan and implementing Falmouth's shellfish program.

Collin then worked with NOAA as a Disaster Preparedness Associate at their Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Alabama where he helped prepare and respond to natural and manmade disasters. He earned National Ocean Service Team Member of the Year honors while also being a co-investigator for the use of drones during a disaster response with the University of South Alabama.

Most recently, Collin was an Emergency Response Planner for the Horsley Witten Group where he scheduled, developed, and supported a variety of training events across the United States to help water-sector utilities and their response partners be better prepared for disasters.

This fall, Collin will attend the Massachusetts Maritime Academy to pursue an M.S. in Emergency Management.

Collin lives on Cape Cod where he enjoys the many beaches and conservation lands, as well as the balance of the lively summer and quiet cold seasons.

Michael Harris
Disaster Program Specialist, Greater Boston

Michael is the Disaster Program Specialist for the Greater Boston area, and is based in the Medford office.

He supports the Greater Boston area, leading community preparedness education offerings to the 61 communities surrounding Boston, with a population of 2.3 million. Michael also supports our Volunteer Duty Officer Team, a group of amazing volunteers who answer calls 24/7 from clients and emergency officials across the state requesting Red Cross assistance. This work is executed through the development and support of 50+ disaster volunteers, and the critical relationships with Fire Departments and community organizations.



Michael has been serving as a Red Cross volunteer in Michigan for the past year. He started his nonprofit career at the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, working as a program associate for kids and teens with kidney disease. Michael helped provide free education and kidney disease prevention programming to vulnerable populations.

He attended DePaul University in Chicago and holds his bachelor's degree in Organizational Communication.

In his free time, Michael enjoys spending time with friends, traveling, and trying new food.



Doudelyne 'DeeDee' Paul
Disaster Program Manager, Central and Western MA Chapter

Doudelyne "DeeDee" is originally from Cap-Haitian, Haiti, and grew up in Miami, Florida. She is a graduate of Suffolk University in Boston and holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a graduate certificate in Non-Profit Management.

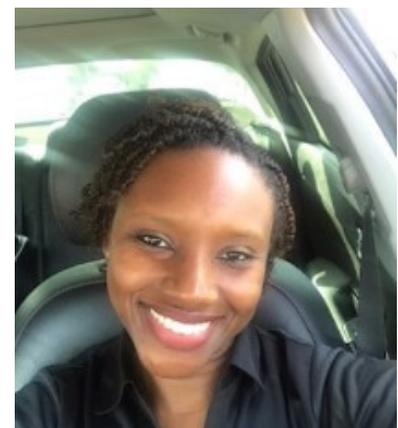
Before joining the Red Cross, DeeDee served as a Disaster Workforce Engagement volunteer for the past four years, and recently interned this past spring. Her professional background includes serving as an Annual Fund Officer and Alumni Affinity Group Coordinator at Suffolk University. She organized events that generated funding for the university and worked closely with alumni minority groups to bring diverse programming inclusive to all Suffolk University students and alumni.

DeeDee is currently completing her master's degree in Diplomacy at Richmond, The American University in London.

Sharifa Trotman
Disaster Program Manager, Metro Boston

Sharifa is our Disaster Program Manager for the Metro Boston area, and is based in the Medford office.

Sharifa brings eight years of experience working in the nonprofit sector, specializing in volunteer management, community outreach, grant writing, and campaign implementation. She began her career in nonprofits in 2010 as a Mission Coordinator for Susan G. Komen in San Antonio, Texas. She later worked for the American Cancer Society in Houston as the Mission Delivery Program Manager, where she managed and expanded the delivery of access to care programs for cancer patients across 40 counties, while leading engagement activities with donors and key stakeholders.



Sharifa holds a B.A. in Communication, Public Relations from the University of Texas. She enjoys giving back to her community and looks forward to getting more involved in Boston community initiatives.

In her free time, Sharifa loves spending time with her son, traveling, and simply enjoying life as it comes.

Red Cross is Walmart's Charity of Choice

Exciting news! This August, the American Red Cross is Walmart's charity of choice.

Walmart customers can **round up** their Walmart.com or in-app transactions **to the nearest dollar to benefit the Red Cross**.

*Please get the word out to your networks
and round up your Walmart.com purchase today!*



Holding Out for Heroes

Next March, the Red Cross of Massachusetts will once again honor local heroes in eight categories:

Blood Services, Community Impact, Emergency Professional, Firefighter, Good Samaritan, Military, Nursing, and Youth.

Nominations for each category open on September 1, 2021.

Please watch your email for details on how to submit a name for consideration—and mark your calendars for the Boston Heroes Breakfast on March 23, 2022.



Weekend of Remembrance Blood Drive

Honor your hero and be a hero by donating blood.

Friday, Sept. 10 | Big Night Entertainment Group

Saturday, Sept. 11 | Fenway Park

Monday, Sept. 13 | West Roxbury Community | District Hall

RedCrossBlood.org | sponsor code: **Bos911**



Remembering September 11, 2001

This year marks 20 years since four planes, including two that took off from Logan Airport, crashed into each tower of the World Trade Center, a section of the Pentagon, and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The September 11 attacks were a defining moment in American history. While the Red Cross grieves for those who were lost, we also celebrate the heroes forged that day, as well as everyone who has

performed an act of service in remembrance.

This year, we're asking you to reflect on your own 9/11 story. Our Communications team has put together a short survey about the events of September 11, 2001:

<https://redcrossmacommunications.wufoo.com/forms/zf6e1qd0cd5zfl/>

Please take a minute to answer the questions with as much detail as you would like to give, whether you were active with the Red Cross at the time or not. Someone from the Communications team will reach out if your story can be included in larger coverage that day.

September Holidays

The American Red Cross of Massachusetts recognizes and appreciates the diversity of its employees and volunteers.

A wide array of cultures celebrates the following September holidays:

Sept. 4–11: Paryushana Parva, a Jain festival lasting about eight to ten days that is observed through meditation and fasting. Its main focus is spiritual upliftment, pursuit of salvation, and a deeper understanding of the religion.

Sept. 6: Labor Day in the United States. Labor Day honors the contribution that laborers have made to the country and is observed on the first Monday of September.

Sept. 6–8 (sundown to sundown): Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year celebration, marking the creation of the world.

Sept. 10: Ganesh Chaturthi, a Hindu holiday lasting around ten days, where the elephant-headed Hindu God is praised and given offerings.

Sept. 11: Beheading of St. John the Baptist, a holy day observed by various Christian churches that follow liturgical traditions. The day commemorates the martyrdom by the beheading of St. John the Baptist on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his stepdaughter, Salome, and her mother.

Sept. 11: Ethiopian New Year. Rastafarians celebrate the New Year on this date and believe that Ethiopia is their spiritual home.

Sept. 15–16 (sundown to sundown): Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, a day of atonement marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.

Sept. 15–Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on Sept. 16, and recognizes the 1810 revolution that ended Spanish dictatorship.

Sept. 18: International Equal Pay Day, celebrated for the first time in Sept. 2020, represents the longstanding efforts toward the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations' commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.

Sept. 20–27: Sukkot, a seven-day Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest.

Sept. 22: Ostara Mabon, a celebration of the vernal equinox commemorated by Pagans and Wiccans.

Sept. 24: Native American Day, a federal holiday observed annually on the fourth Friday in September in California and Nevada, and on the second Monday in October in South Dakota and Oklahoma.

Sept. 27: Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Holy Cross), a day that commemorates the cross used in the crucifixion of Jesus in some Christian denominations.

Sept. 27: Meskel, a religious holiday in the Ethiopian Orthodox and Eritrean Orthodox churches that commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by the Roman Empress, Helena, in the fourth century.

Sept. 27–29 (sundown to sundown): Shemini Atzeret, a Jewish holiday also known as The Eighth (Day) of Assembly, takes place the day after the Sukkot festival, where gratitude for the fall harvest is deeply internalized.

Sept. 28: Teacher’s Day in Taiwan, which honors teachers’ contributions to their students and to society in general. People often express their gratitude to their teachers by paying them a visit or sending a card. This date was chosen to commemorate the birth of Confucius, the model master educator in ancient China.

Sept. 28–29 (sundown to sundown): Simchat Torah, a Jewish holiday, marks the end of the weekly readings of the Torah. The holy book is read from chapter one of Genesis to Deuteronomy 34 and then back to chapter one again, in acknowledgement of the words of the Torah being a circle, a never-ending cycle.

Sept. 29: Michaelmas, or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is a minor Christian festival dedicated to Archangel Michael that is observed in some Western liturgical calendars.

Keep Us Posted

Please send us your news and photos, and upcoming calendar events, to: News.RedCrossMA@redcross.org

Stay up-to-date on breaking news on our social channels and tag @RedCrossMA when you post about your Red Cross work!



American Red Cross - Massachusetts
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