

Governor Baker's COVID-19 Updates

REOPENING MASSACHUSETTS: Phase 4, Step 1



Vaccine: Who can get it now?

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Eligibility Status

Phase	Group	Status
Phase 1	All phase 1 priority groups	Now eligible ✓
	Phase 2	
Phase 2	1 Individuals age 75+	Now eligible ✓
	2 Individuals age 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions	Now eligible ✓
	3 K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and child care workers	Now eligible ✓
	4 Individuals age 60+ and workers in certain sectors (including transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers)	Now eligible ✓
	5 Individuals age 55+ and individuals with 1 certain medical condition	Eligible 4/5 ✓
Phase 3	1 Individuals age 16+	Eligible 4/19

NOT YET → (Red box with arrow pointing to Phase 3 group 1)

For more details on each group and phase visit mass.gov/COVIDvaccine

@massgov

COVID-19 Vaccine: What to Expect

Watch this ASL video about what to expect when you get a COVID-19 vaccine: click [here](#).

Check out the CDC's many other ASL videos there too.

Want more information?

Visit: cdc.gov/coronavirus



Need COVID-19 information in a different language? Click [here!](#)

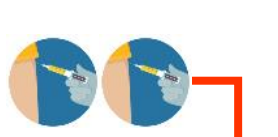
CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?

When are You Fully Vaccinated?

Moderna:

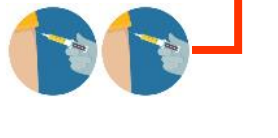
- 2 shots
- 28 days apart



2 weeks after second shot
= PROTECTED

Pfizer:

- 2 shots
- 21 days apart



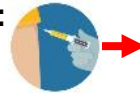
2 weeks after one/only shot
= PROTECTED



Continue to follow guidelines (wear a mask, wash hands, etc.)

Johnson & Johnson/Janssen:

- 1 shot



2 weeks after one/only shot
= PROTECTED

Less than 2 weeks since your 1-dose shot or waiting for second dose? **You are NOT fully protected.**

ODSC Hires Victims Advocate



Our Deaf Survivors Center, Inc. (ODSC) is thrilled to announce that ODSC received a three (3) year \$450,000 grant from “Grant for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations”. With this grant, ODSC has started searching for an executive director, increased current hours for: Kristen Crossen (Clinical Supervisor) and Samantha Kistner (Cultural Broker—working Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays), and hired a **Victim Advocate—Rebecca Szykowski**. Rebecca recently started and will be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Rebecca was born and raised on the West coast and has moved around to 7 different states before landing in Massachusetts. Her passion is to work with the Deaf community providing mental health and domestic violence services. Rebecca’s 3 plus years of experience began with her studies at Gallaudet University, where she majored in social work. Her goals are to promote working with victims/survivors of sexual and domestic violence by offering them a supportive, healing, and empowering journey that encourages their self-growth, as well as train the Deaf community on understanding domestic violence and how to be a supportive ally. Please welcome Rebecca to ODSC and to MASS!

ODSC will continue sending updates with more news about future actions/plans and the search for an Executive Director.

ODSC website: <https://www.odscunity.org/>



IRS Videos in ASL

Questions about filing taxes? Watch the IRS ASL YouTube Channel:

- Find out what to do if you don't get your W-2
- Five Things to Know about the Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Earned Income Tax Credit – Get It Right



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQwj_3ceiufbeafRPrC83Ig

2021 Tax Deadlines



New FEDERAL and MASSACHUSETTS
Tax deadlines:

May 17, 2021

Read more [here](#).

2021 Tax Filing

LOWELL AREA

Community Teamwork
Online or drop-off only.

NO APPOINTMENTS

Click [here](#) for more information about where you can drop off papers.



WORCESTER AREA

Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC)
(in Denholm Building, 2nd floor), Suite 202
484 Main Street, Worcester, MA
Paper drop-off hours (for scanning only)

NO APPOINTMENTS

Mondays 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

Wednesdays 3:00 pm—7:00 pm

Fridays 9:00 am—1:00 pm

Saturdays 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Watch VLOG in ASL here:

<https://youtu.be/kgicnlm0q9E>

MCDHH Cancellation Requests



MCDHH Referral Dept announced other options for **Cancellation Requests** for Interpreting and CART Services.

See the VLOG: <https://www.facebook.com/MCDHH.MA/videos/12649211611962>

2021 Stimulus Payment

How will I get paid?

- Direct deposit, paper check, or debit card

Where is my payment?

- Look here: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

Frequently Asked Questions—click [here](#)



Deaf Future Works VLOG explains IRS announcement in ASL: <https://fb.watch/4Hao6W-ctl/>



NOTE: Must log in to FaceBook to watch.



MRC Connect

Apply for services online at: <https://www.mass.gov/mrc-connect>

- VR (Vocational Rehabilitation)
- SHIP (Statewide Head Injury Program)
- HCAP (Home Care)
- SL (Supported Living)



Watch a demo [here!](#)

Movie: *Feeling Through*

Feeling Through is the first film with a DeafBlind individual in the lead role. It is also nominated for an Oscar!

Watch the 93rd Academy Awards on **Sunday, April 25, 2021 8pm-11pm.**

Feeling Through is in the **Live Action Short Film** Category.

174 Films qualified in this category. Only **10** are on the short list, including *Feeling Through*.

Watch the 18 minute film [here](#).



Camp Catch Them Young



From July 12-23, 2021

Registration Deadline: June 30, 2021

Register [here!](#)

Questions? leadership.pipeline@gallaudet.edu

Public Listening Sessions: HST



What is HST? This means **Human Service Transportation**—non-emergency medical transportation for some members of:

- *MassHealth*
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)
- Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)

EX: transportation for: medical, dental, mental health, or substance use disorder appointments; and to/from Day Habilitation programs.

What will happen at the Listening Sessions?

Learn about the changes that will start July 1, 2021. Meet the new Brokers, ask them questions, *and share your comments, suggestions and feedback.*

See the website: <https://www.mass.gov/hstnews>

If you use MART, BRTA, CATA, or FRTA now - OR live in Western Mass, Central Mass, Metro Boston, or Northeastern Mass —join HST and MART at one of these meetings:

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 10AM-NOON

[Zoom link](#)

Phone access, dial 646-558-8656 and use Meeting ID 848 2671 7604

One-tap mobile +16465588656, 84826717604#

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 6-8PM

[Zoom link](#)

Phone access, dial 646-558-8656 and use Meeting ID 873 0230 0281

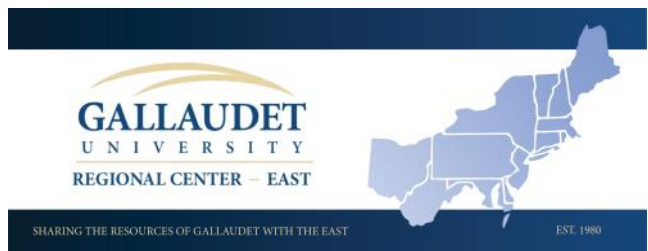
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Watch the VLOG: [here.](#)



See what we have been up to:
<https://youtu.be/ybetxz1QmUQ>



SHARING THE RESOURCES OF GALLAUDET WITH THE EAST

EST. 1980

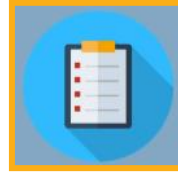
<https://www.necc.mass.edu/gallaudet/>

Spring Cleaning



Budget your Time!

How much time do you have to clean?
Pick a space to clean in that time.



Make a Plan!

Use checklists to stay focused and on track.

Use the Right Tools!

Mop, all purpose cleaner, scrub brushes, lint roller, garbage bags, and more...



Make a Cleaning Caddy!

Put all the cleaning things you need in a bucket—grab it and start cleaning.



Let Fresh Air In!

Open your windows on warm, sunny days. Fresh air comes in and stale air goes out.



Clean from Top to Bottom!

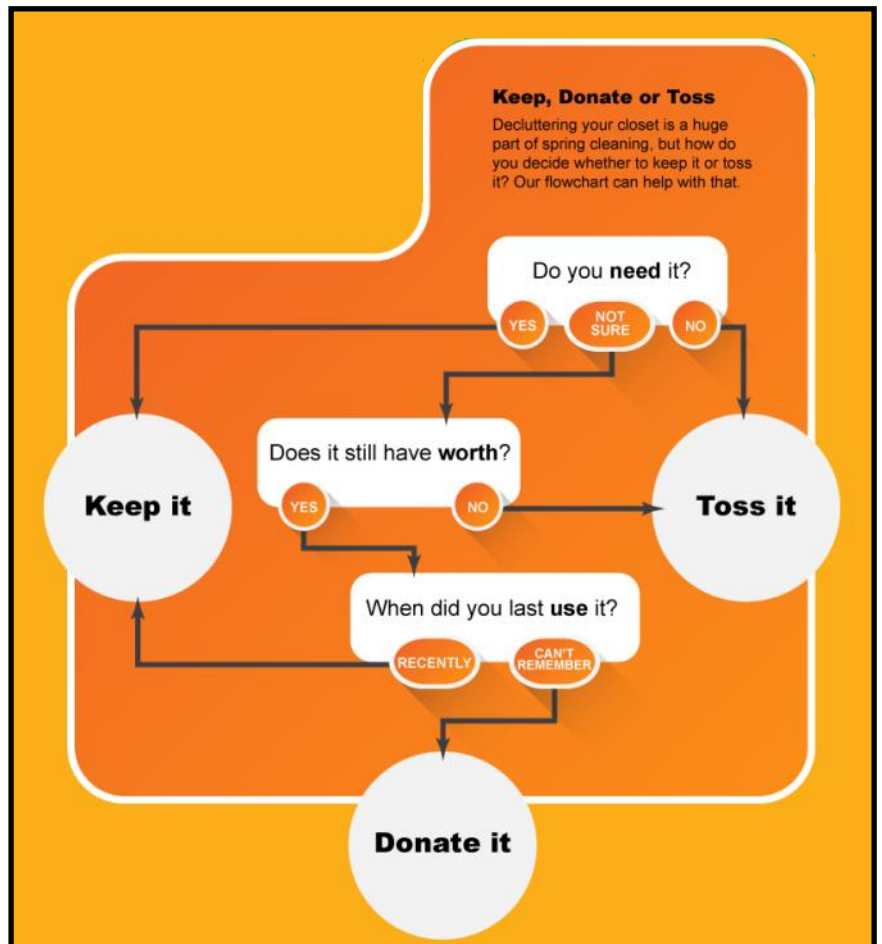
Don't clean the same area twice—clean from top to bottom and from one side to another.



Keep, Donate or Toss?

What do I keep or get rid of when I'm spring cleaning?

Use this to help you decide!



DHILS Deaf Skills Trainer (P/T 20 hours)

Provide Independent Living skills training, peer counseling, resources and advocacy to Deaf consumers.



- Part-time – 20 hours.
- Fluent in ASL (required).

See the full job description and requirements [here](#).

Questions? Contact Deb Olson at: dolson@centerlw.org

Zoom Guide

CLW DHILS made a guide for using Zoom. Step-by-step instructions and pictures show how to:

- Download the Zoom app
- Join/Leave a meeting
- Gallery View vs. Speaker View
- Pin a screen



WANT A COPY? Contact Denise Paro at: dparo@centerlw.org or 508-556-1600 (VP)

NOTE: let us know which one(s) you want! (Computer/Cell Phone/iPad)

Is your baby a linguist? (Yes!)

Deaf infants needed to participate in an important research study



Language Awareness in Deaf Children

Even very young infants know a lot about language. We want to learn more about how young Deaf children respond to sign languages they have never seen before.

For more information:
<https://deafbabies.weebly.com>



Or contact: shane.blau@gallaudet.edu

- Who?** Deaf children, ages 5-18 months
- What?** Watch short videos of sign language
- Where?** Online! In the comfort of your home
- Why?** Help us understand more about Deaf infants and early language experience
- Other benefits?** Parents will receive a \$20 gift card

<https://deafbabies.weebly.com>

COVID-19 Resources/Data

We will add more sites as needed.

Vaccine Information	https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine
Vaccine Appointments	https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/
Vaccine Appointments for 75+	www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-people-ages-75-and-older
COVID-19 Testing	www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing
US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths <i>by State</i>	https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days
COVID-19 Variant in the US	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html
MA COVID-19 town-by-town map	https://www.wcvb.com/article/massachusetts-coronavirus-covid-19-community-spread-risk-map-color-coded/33646711
MA Travel Order	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states
MA Response Reporting	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting
MA <i>Stop the Spread</i>	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread ASL Version: https://www.facebook.com/massgov/videos/434334580929189/
Re-Opening MA	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information#reopening-massachusetts-
Governor Press Conferences	Watch here: https://www.mass.gov/governor-updates Press Releases: https://www.mass.gov/lists/press-releases-related-to-covid-19

NOTE: See separate *SE Resources* page for more information or contact your Skills Trainer with questions.

Questions about this Newsletter?

Need a website address from your printed newsletter? Contact your Skills Trainer!

Joan Philip	<i>DHILS Director</i>	508-762-1165 (VP)
VACANT	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer</i>	508-762-1350 (VP)
Denise Paro	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	<i>Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer</i>	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Joy Spurlin	<i>Assistant Manager/Skills Trainer</i>	508-762-1166 (VP)
Justina Bailey	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer</i>	508-762-1021 (VP)
Kim White	<i>Staff Interpreter</i>	508-755-1042 x5042; 508-283-1036 (VP)



April 9, 2021 at 11:00 AM
 April 15, 2021 at 2:00 PM
 April 19, 2021 at 3:00 pm



Denied Accommodations?

Have you or someone you know had problems getting access to a sign language interpreter or CART services from doctor's offices, hospitals, courts, police departments, or other service providers? Have you been denied other accommodations?

Zoom Meeting ID: 824 975 2710

Please join a scheduled ZOOM meeting *or* Email LeWana at: drlewanaclark@gmail.com



April 9 – 10, 2021



**2021 DEN Conference: Innovate & Adapt
 Deaf Entrepreneurship Network**

On Zoom

Registration: www.goden.org/2021virtualden

DHILS Consumer Deaf Zoom Chat
Second Tuesday of the month!
 1:00 – 2:00 PM



JOIN US!

- April 13, 2021
- May 11, 2021
- June 8, 2021

RSVP to Denise Paro at:
 508-508-556-1600 or
DParo@CenterLW.org

Watch a VLOG here: <https://youtu.be/OBdXcnYlhBo>

April 14, 2021
 1:00 - 3:00 PM



Tips for Being Active & Healthy Eating
See flier on page 13

April 21, 2021
 May 5, 2021
First and third Wednesday of the month
 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Housing Workshop

Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)'s workshop will teach you about affordable housing options in your area and how to apply.

Register [here](#).



April 22, 2021
 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Salute to Patriots Virtual Job Fair

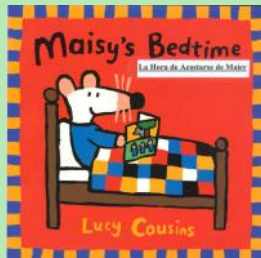
**First hour for Military Service Members and Veterans*

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Tuesday, 4/20/21

Register here: <https://masshirecentralcc.com/event/salute-to-patriots-virtual-job-fair/>

Parent/Kids Events

April 10, 2021
10:00 AM



Shared Reading Saturday — *Maisy's Bedtime*

Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/SharedReadingSaturday>

YouTube Live:

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCih3jEwAdEllywpDLbJTU-A>

April 10, 2021
6:45 PM



The Learning Center for the Deaf's 50th Anniversary Virtual CELEBRATION

Streamed Live at no charge on Facebook and YouTube

See more information at: www.tlcdeaf.org/50th

Second Tuesday of the month
1:00 — 2:00 PM



Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids

Learn more about *MHAP for Kids* [here](#).

April 13: Delinquency Proceedings/CRA Law

May 11: C&P Proceedings/CRA Law

June 8: School Discipline Rights

Register by emailing Michaela: mmacquarrie@hla-inc.org

Sessions start in April 2021



Leadership Experience and Adventure Program (LEAP)

Deaf/HH high school students (ages 14-18) who use spoken language. Online program helps teens gain confidence in virtual environments, develop leadership skills, and connect with new friends.

Applications accepted until June 10, 2021 with sessions starting in April.

More information: www.agbellleap.com



Boston Children's Hospital Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program

Visit Facebook for the latest events:

<https://www.facebook.com/BostonChildrensDHHP>



Worcester Family Partnership

Click [here](#) to see their Facebook.

Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department

Videophone: 508-762-1164

Voice/TTY: 508-755-1003

www.CenterLW.org



Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

One Book, One Community

"The idea is that the city that opens the same book closes it in greater harmony."

—Mary McGrory, *The Washington Post*, March 17, 2002



Berkshire
Domestic & Sexual Violence
Task Force

ZOOM WEBINAR DISCUSSION WITH

TATYANA FAZLALIZADEH

ACTIVIST-ARTIST AND AUTHOR OF

STOP TELLING WOMEN TO SMILE:

Stories of Street Harassment and
How We're Taking Back Our Power

APRIL 29, 2021 7:00-8:30 PM

Free and Open to the Public. ASL Interpretation.
Simultaneous Spanish Interpretation. Closed Captions.

To register for the webinar, go to:

<https://bit.ly/2Q11qN54>



The Berkshire Eagle



CLW's DHILS

Invites you to join us on Zoom for



TIPS FOR BEING ACTIVE AND HEALTHY EATING



Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm



COME LEARN :

- What is “Healthy Eating”?
- What can I do at home to exercise?
- What is “My Plate”?
- *And more!*



ALL CURRENT CONSUMERS WHO RSVP AND STAY FOR THE WHOLE PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM, WILL RECEIVE A WALMART E-GIFT CARD!



Presentation will be in ASL—Don't know ASL but still want to attend?
Let us know and we will request an interpreter!
 For any other Communication Access, please contact us **by April 1st.**

Please RSVP so we can send you the Zoom link!



RSVP BY APRIL 12TH

Register online here: <https://forms.gle/BnXzGEV9vUAS4Kfz5>

Questions? Contact Denise Paro

508-762-1164 (VP)

Email: dparo@centerlw.org

How to Avoid Internet Scams

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm — 3:00 pm

Place: Online via Zoom

Please log on a few minutes early so we can

LEARN:

- Risks of Social Media scams
 - Dating App scams
 - Identity Theft
- Red flags to notice
 - *And more!*



ALL CURRENT CONSUMERS WHO RSVP AND STAY FOR THE WHOLE PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM, WILL RECEIVE A WALMART E-GIFT CARD!



ASL Interpreters and CDIs will be provided! CART requested.

For any other Communication Access, please contact us by April 14th!



Please REGISTER so we can send you the Zoom link!

REGISTER BY APRIL 26TH:

ONLINE:

<https://forms.gle/rm4VxzL9vEKx8Lgx8>

OR

CONTACT DENISE PARO:

508-762-1164 (VP)

Email: dparo@centerlw.org



CLW's DHILS
Invites you to join us for



Understanding Health Care Proxy & Living Wills

Date: Wednesday, May 19th, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm



LEARN:


- ◆ What is a Health Care Proxy?
 - ◆ What is a Living Will?
- ◆ Why would I need these?
- ◆ How do I make one?

ALL CURRENT CONSUMERS WHO RSVP AND STAY FOR THE WHOLE PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM, WILL RECEIVE A WALMART E-GIFT CARD!

 **ASL Interpreters will be provided! CART Requested!** 

*For any other Communication Access, please contact us **by April 30, 2021.***

Please RSVP so we can send you the Zoom link!



RSVP BY MAY 17TH, 2021

Register online here: <https://forms.gle/KsoBRp8x2sGRfzjJ6>

Questions? Contact Denise Paro

508-762-1164 (VP) Email: dparocenterlw.org



ADAPTIVE DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

MEASURABLE PROGRESS | UNLIMITED SUPPORT



Are you at risk for Type 2 diabetes?
Do you have a hard time walking or climbing stairs?
You might think exercise is impossible.
The YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program is here for you!

This program can help you make small, measurable changes that lower your risk for diabetes and improve your health. Change is tough—but we can help.

To learn more, please contact
Roberta Steele
at Roberta.Steele@mass.gov

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- It's FREE!
- Program will be virtual in spring 2021
- 25 sessions delivered over one year
- Co-led by a trained YMCA Lifestyle Coach and a Peer Leader who understands your experience
- A group that can offer you motivation and support!

Image: Disabled and Here

The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program uses a CDC-approved curriculum and is part of the CDC-led National Diabetes Prevention Program. The Old Colony YMCA and the National Council of Young Men's Christian Association of the United States of America ("YMCA of the USA") have made a commitment to collaborate with the nation's YMCAs on efforts to support a national movement to increase awareness and take measures to prevent diabetes and its complications among groups at risk, and to help support treatment outcomes for individuals who have confirmed diagnoses or indications of prediabetes by promoting an effective lifestyle change program.

The YMCA of the USA nor any YMCA offering the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program warrants or guarantees any specific outcomes for program participants with respect to diabetes prevention.