



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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12:00 PM

### **September 2022**

## **Martha's Vineyard Humanitarian Response**

### **Update #5**

Today, new shelter and humanitarian supports were activated at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) for the approximately 50 individuals who arrived unexpectedly on Martha's Vineyard on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. Safe, voluntary transportation from the Island to JBCC was offered and provided to group members who chose to depart this morning by the Vineyard Transit Authority, Steamship Authority, and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Coordinated efforts among state and local officials have secured food, shelter, and essential services, with a large group of humanitarian volunteers waiting for the group's arrival at JBCC.

Governor Baker stated in a press release on Friday, September 16, 2022, "JBCC is a facility already designated by MEMA as an emergency shelter in Barnstable County, and its existing infrastructure provides a safe temporary accommodation appropriate for the needs of families and individuals. Additionally, the facility can provide dedicated space for access to legal services and other essential services such as basic healthcare. JBCC has historically housed and cared for displaced individuals, including Louisiana residents fleeing the impact of Hurricane Katrina, as well as an alternative care medical site for Massachusetts residents during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Throughout this weeks' humanitarian response, the Dukes County Emergency Management Association has worked in constant communication with a coordinated team of local and state officials, including MEMA, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the Massachusetts National Guard, the Massachusetts State Police, Dukes County Sheriff's Office, Dukes County and Barnstable County, Congressman Bill Keating, Senator

Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey, Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, Senator Julian Cyr, Representative Dylan Fernandez, and more.

The members of Dukes County Emergency Management Association wish to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible response from our community. Thank you to first responders from across the island, Houses of Grace, Martha's Vineyard Community Services, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services, American Red Cross, Martha's Vineyard Public School System, The Wampanoag Tribe of Aquinnah, Communication Ambassador Partnership, Steamship Authority, Martha's Vineyard Airport, The Vineyard Transit Authority, Martha's Vineyard Endodontics, and the many, many others who volunteered their time and services, coming together during this time of need. We would like to recognize Farm Neck, Sharky's Cantina, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Culinary Services, Among the Flowers Cafe, and countless others in the food service and hospitality community who came forward offering their time and resources. In particular, we want to acknowledge and thank the incredible volume of community members, businesses, and local programs who reached out to offer assistance. The immense outpouring of volunteers is representative of our community's humanitarian spirit.

Please direct all further media inquiries or volunteer outreach to Massachusetts Emergency Management at [seoc.pio@mass.gov](mailto:seoc.pio@mass.gov).

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