



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 2/27/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 2/27, 2,047,960 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 1,671,193 (81.6%) doses have been administered.
- As of 2/26, Massachusetts is #6 for first doses administered per capita amongst all states and #1 for total first doses administered per capital amongst the 24 states with 5M people according to the CDC.

Who to Vaccinate this Week

- Individuals ages 65 and older and those with 2+ certain medical conditions, including moderate-to-severe asthma, and those residing in low-income and affordable senior housing are eligible to be vaccinated.
- Provider sites may request vaccine for any individuals in Phase 1 and anyone in the first two groups of Phase 2. This includes health care workers, first responders, congregate care settings, and home-based health care workers, those 65 years of age or older, those with 2+ certain medical conditions, and those residing in low-income and affordable senior housing.
- Sites should maintain wait lists of eligible individuals they can call if they have extra vaccine and schedule an appointment in order to administer by the end of the day to prevent wastage.

What to Know this Week

- **New Steps toward Johnson & Johnson vaccine authorization:** On Friday 2/26, FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee endorsed Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine. Emergency use authorization from the FDA is expected on Saturday 2/27, followed by a review from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. More information about availability in Massachusetts will be forthcoming.
- **New COVID-19 vaccine allocation:** The Federal Government is providing the Commonwealth with 139,000 new first doses each week: 60 boxes of Pfizer and 690 boxes of Moderna. This supply is inadequate to meet the demand of our provider community or our citizens. This is an unfortunate reality and places severe limitations on our vaccine allocation and distribution. As a result of the inadequate supply of vaccine, the vaccine distribution process must be streamlined. Going forward requests for first doses of vaccine will be prioritized to:
 - The Federal pharmacy program that supports onsite vaccination clinics at long term care facilities and congregate care programs. The skilled nursing facility portion of this program will end by 2/28. The congregate care part will end no later than 4/15;

- Congregate care programs, including homeless shelters, correctional facilities and state operated and financed group homes not covered by the federal pharmacy program and their vaccinating provider partners;
- Community Health Centers who meet the administration threshold of 65%;
- Providers listed on the state's website: mass.gov/vaccine, offering vaccination appointments to all eligible residents (retail pharmacy, mass vaccination sites, regional collaborations, provider or community operated clinics);
- Local Boards of Health vaccinating low income or affordable public or private senior housing properties or homebound individuals;
- Local Boards of Health in identified disproportionately impacted communities; and
- Health Systems providing vaccine to their patient panels.

A major factor in determining a provider's (except community health centers) allocation is ability to maintain a threshold of 85% for vaccine usage. This is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of doses received by the number of doses administered. Another factor in determining a provider's allocation is their ability to administer all doses received within 10 days of receipt.

- **New *Second doses*:** DPH is committed to ensuring remaining sites receive the necessary quantity of 2nd doses to serve your patients to whom you've already provided vaccine. If you currently have vaccine on hand, please use those doses as 2nd doses and only request additional doses for the balance of your need.
- **New *Updated Pfizer EUA*:** FDA issued an amendment to the [Pfizer EUA](#) on 2/26. The changes to the [Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet](#) include:
 - Added an alternative option for frozen storage and transportation at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F)
 - Frozen vials stored or transported at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) may be returned one time to the recommended storage condition of -80°C to -60°C (-112°F to -76°F). Total cumulative time the vials are stored at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) should be tracked and should not exceed 2 weeks.
 - Pregnancy risk summary updated to include data from reproductive and developmental toxicity study in rats.
 - New section 6.2 Post Authorization Experience (includes anaphylaxis and severe allergic reactions)
 - Updated CDC link to anaphylaxis guidance
- **New *Getting 6 doses from Pfizer vials*:** While Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been updated to a 6 doses multi-dose vial (MDV), the packaging will state that it is a 5-dose vial until next month. Regardless of the packaging, the vaccine should be used as a 6 dose MDV.
 - Use low dead-volume syringes and/or needles to withdraw 6 doses.
 - If sufficient quantities of low dead-volume syringes are not available OR a 1.5-inch needle is needed, withdraw vaccine using a combination of low dead-volume syringes and non-low dead-volume syringes (e.g., 3 low dead-volume syringes and 3 non-low dead-volume syringes) per vial.
 - Slowly inject the diluent to prevent excess foaming or bubbling.
 - When mixing and withdrawing vaccine, insert the needle into different places on the vial septum.

- Review CDC's new [Preparation Infographic](#) poster which highlights how to withdraw 6 doses of vaccine from a Pfizer vaccine vial.
- **Updated CDC Guidance:**
 - **COVID-19 vaccination of homebound persons:** CDC has [new guidance](#) on vaccinating persons at home or in small group settings, including transporting small numbers of doses and the transportation of punctured vials.
 - **CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit:** This [toolkit has been updated](#) to reflect specific information for Pfizer and Moderna, including transport information.
 - **Standing Orders and Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summaries:** [Materials for Pfizer and Moderna](#) COVID-19 vaccines were updated on 2/11/21.
 - **Preparing for the potential management of anaphylaxis after COVID-19 vaccination:** These [CDC considerations](#) were updated on 2/10/21.
 - **Interim Clinical Considerations for the Use mRNA Covid-19 Vaccines:** These [CDC considerations](#), updated 2/10/21, include new recommendations for preventing, reporting, and managing vaccine administration errors; clarification on contraindications and precautions; updated information on delayed, local injection-site reactions after the first vaccine dose; updated recommendations for testing for TB infection; and updated quarantine recommendations for vaccinated persons (**not yet implemented in MA**).
- **MIIS reporting:** Provider sites must comply with the [MIIS Reporting Order for COVID Vaccine](#) to report vaccine administration data to the MIIS within 24 hours (not the 72 hours previously required). If you do not report doses administered to the MIIS, it will appear that you have more inventory than you may actually have on hand. This will jeopardize your next allocation.
- **Vaccine redistribution:** It is critical to document all vaccine transfers in the MIIS; failure to do so will cause inaccurate inventories leading to less vaccine being allocated to you in future orders. You should only transfer COVID-19 vaccine to providers that have completed the MCVF agreement. Providers receiving COVID-19 vaccine should confirm what has been physically received is what has been transferred before completing the transfer. Please review:
 - Transferring vaccine from one site to another 6-minute video [instruction video](#)
 - [How to Login and Navigate the MIIS](#)
 - [How to Complete a Transfer Mini Guide](#)
 - [Quick Start – Complete a Transfer](#)
- **Transport of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines:** Preliminary CDC guidance on transport of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines allows for the transport of punctured vials, as long as the cold chain is maintained. Transporting vaccine in prefilled syringes is discouraged but, when necessary, may be done with strict adherence to the guidance in the [USP COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit](#).

Where to go when you have questions about COVID-19 vaccine

Save time by contacting the correct source to answer questions and resolve issues. Please check the following contacts when deciding whom to contact for assistance.

Important: Calls about vaccine viability, damage, or packing slip discrepancies must reach McKesson (for Moderna vaccine) or Pfizer (for Pfizer vaccine) the same day the shipment arrived at the office as documented by the carrier.

- **Pfizer vaccine shipment has a problem:**

- Pfizer Customer Service: 800-666-7248, Email: cvgovernment@pfizer.com
- **Pfizer ancillary kit has a problem:**
 - McKesson Customer Service: 833-272-6634, Email: SNSSupport@McKesson.com
- **If there is a problem with Moderna Vaccine shipment:**
 - Phone: 833 272-6635 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. ET
 - Email (only send after hours): COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com
- **Moderna ancillary kit has a problem:**
 - McKesson Customer Service: 833-272-6634, Email: SNSSupport@McKesson.com
- **For clinical questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine** (<https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info>)
 - Call 1-800-232-4636 or email using the [CDC-Info web form](#)
- **Vaccine Unit** (dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us)
 - Enrollment into MCVF
 - Vaccine storage and handling and transfer
 - Vaccine shipments, inventory, and number of doses allocated
 - Vaccine wastage/expiration
- **MIIS** (miishelpdesk@mass.gov) Due to the volume of inquiries, it is taking 2-3 business days for the Help Desk to respond. Answers to most questions can be found at the [MIIS Resource Center](#).
 - MIIS registration/onboarding
 - How to log in to the MIIS and report vaccines to the MIIS
 - Running reports in the MIIS
 - Adding users/sites to the MIIS
- **COVID-19 email box** (COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov)
 - Who can get vaccine
 - Vaccine prioritization
 - Where and how to get vaccinated

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** CDC [COVID-19 vaccine provider training](#)
- **New** CDC COCA: [What Clinicians Need to Know About the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#). 3/2, 2-3 pm
- **New** IAC: [Safety Monitoring and Communications for the COVID-19 Vaccines](#). 3/4, 1-2 pm
- COVID-19 Vaccine Live Q&A. These live Q&A sessions supplement the MDPH [training modules](#).
 - 3/8 from 1-2pm: [Registration \(gotoweinar.com\)](#)
 - 3/22 from 1-2pm: [Registration \(gotoweinar.com\)](#)
- Order COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards from the [Massachusetts Clearing House](#).
- Download Massachusetts [COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Outreach Materials](#)
- Visit www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineProviders for [vaccine provider FAQ](#); detailed [guidance](#) on vaccine management and administration; and CDC and FDA [resources](#) such as v-safe.
- [EUA fact sheets](#) for providers and caregivers, available in multiple languages.