



## MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

### BULLETIN

#### What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 4/2/21

##### Important Note about the Bulletin

In addition to providers currently receiving vaccine, the distribution list for this weekly COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin also includes providers and others who may not yet be receiving vaccine at this time. We are sending this Bulletin for the awareness for all.

##### Latest Numbers

- As of 4/2, 4,351,410 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 3,734,442 doses (85.8%) have been administered.

##### Who to Vaccinate this Week

- All remaining individuals in Massachusetts will be eligible for a vaccine on the following dates:
  - April 5: Individuals 55+ and individuals with one [certain medical condition](#)
  - April 19: General public ages 16 years of age and older
- New** The CDC recently updated its [list of conditions](#) which can make an individual more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19. **Effective Monday, April 5, 2021**, individuals with one or more of the CDC's revised list of conditions will be eligible to receive the vaccine in Massachusetts.
- Updated** Provider sites may request vaccine for health care workers, first responders, congregate care settings, home-based health care workers, those 55 years of age or older, those with 1+ [certain medical conditions](#), those residing in low-income and affordable senior housing, childcare workers, K-12 educators and staff, and [certain workers](#).
- Sites should maintain wait lists of eligible individuals they can call if they have extra vaccine they can administer by the end of the day to prevent wastage. Last-minute available appointments are not to be posted on social media. Individuals must be contacted by telephone.

##### What to Know this Week

- New Some lots of COVID-19 vaccine may be expiring:** Check expiration and beyond use dates for COVID-19 vaccine. Use the [CDC Expiration Date Tracking Tool](#) to assist with monitoring expiration dates or find expiration dates at the following locations:
  - Pfizer – On packaging
  - Moderna – Use QR code or [look up online](#)
  - Janssen/J&J – Use QR code on packaging, [look up online](#), or call automated interactive voice response system, available 24 hours a day: 1-800-565-4008
- New Moderna vaccine storage temperature excursions tool:** Use the [Temperature Excursion Tool](#) to see what to do with vials of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine that may have experienced a temperature excursion prior to administering.

- **New Issues with syringes and needles contained in the ancillary kits:** Follow these steps to report any issues to identify trends in packaging and shipping problems:
  - Photograph any identified deficiencies
  - Report deficiencies to McKesson at 833-272-6634 or [SNSSupport@McKesson.com](mailto:SNSSupport@McKesson.com)
  - Report deficiencies to the DPH Vaccine Unit at [dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us)
  - If a deficiency leads to an error or injury during vaccine administration, include the event in your report to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#).
- **New Replacing lost COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards:** COVID-19 vaccine providers and vaccination sites can print out vaccine records from the MIIS.
  - If a patient has lost their COVID-19 Vaccination Card, their provider can print out their immunization record from the MIIS, using this [Mini Guide](#).
  - If that is not possible, vaccine recipients can complete and notarize an [Immunization Record Request Form](#) to submit to the DPH MIIS office. Please note that by using this request form, recipients will receive their complete history of vaccines administered, not just the COVID-19 vaccine and it can take up to 6 weeks to receive.
  - Vaccinators can order new COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards in English and Spanish from the [Massachusetts Clearing House](#) at no cost.
- **New Individuals authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccination:** New DPH orders have authorized additional individuals, including all medical assistants, phlebotomists, and combat lifesavers, to administer COVID-19 vaccine. See the [full list](#).
- **Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for MCV Providers:** This [updated guidance](#) provides information on becoming a COVID-19 vaccine provider, information about each COVID-19 vaccine product, requesting vaccine and reporting to the MIIS, storage and handling, clinical considerations, and where to go when you have questions about COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Encourage individuals to receive the first COVID-19 vaccine available to them:** After reviewing the clinical trial data for the COVID-19 vaccines with Emergency Use Authorization, neither the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices nor the [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and Efficacy Evaluation Task Force](#) state a product preference. The only exceptions to this are:
  - People with a contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (including known Polyethylene glycol [PEG] allergy): consideration may be given to vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.
  - People with a contraindication to Janssen COVID-19 vaccine (including known polysorbate allergy): consideration may be given to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

Use the CDC Pre-vaccination Checklist [screening form](#) to assess for contraindications and precautions to all three currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines. Consider referring people with a history of immediate reaction to any other vaccine or injectable therapy, to an allergist-immunologist to help the patient balance the risks against the benefits of vaccination. For more information, see [CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

- **Using correct needle size:** A [Needle Gauge and Length Chart](#) is included in every COVID-19 vaccine ancillary kit. Administering COVID-19 vaccine subcutaneously, rather than intramuscularly, is considered an administration error and should be reported to [VAERS](#)
- **Reminder about v-safe After Vaccination Health Tracker:** Through v-safe, vaccine recipients report side effects to CDC and receive reminders about their second COVID-19 vaccine dose if

they need one. Visit [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](#) for more information and fact sheets for vaccine recipients.

- **v-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry:** CDC established the [v-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry](#) to collect health information from people who received COVID-19 vaccination in the periconception period or during pregnancy to learn more about this issue.
- **Guidance for completing the weekly MCVp survey:** The [MCVP survey guide](#) assists vaccine administrators with successfully completing the weekly MCVP survey to request vaccine.
- **Guidelines to avoid having to cancel scheduled COVID-19 vaccination appointments:**
  - If your vaccine allocation is less than the total you requested for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, use the vaccine received to first meet all your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose commitments. After meeting your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose commitments, any remaining vaccine may be used for first doses.
  - Do not schedule appointments for 1<sup>st</sup> doses until you have received confirmation of the number of doses you have been allocated and you know that all your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose commitments can be met.
  - Timing of vaccine shipments can vary. Only schedule appointments for Monday – Wednesday for administration of vaccine you already have in inventory.
  - Use this [Second Dose Calculator](#) to help with timing of requesting for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses.
  - Please also review [key messages](#) about scheduling 2<sup>nd</sup> doses. Every effort should be made to schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointments at the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> appointment.
- **Guidance for fully vaccinated people:** Review [new guidance](#) for people in Massachusetts who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This guidance is based on CDC's [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).

## Resources & Learning Opportunities

- New DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A for Vaccine Providers, April 12 from 1-2pm. [Register here](#).
- New CDC is offering a series of brief (15-20 minute) webinars with CE credit:
  - [Preventing Vaccine Administration Errors: A Primer for Healthcare Workers](#)
  - [A Primer for Healthcare Workers on Storing and Transporting Vaccines](#)
- New CDC [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) reference materials:
  - [Interim Clinical Consideration Summary](#)
  - [Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations table](#)
- USP COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit. [Download the latest toolkit](#)
  - [Maximizing Doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
  - [Transporting COVID-19 Vaccines Off-Site](#)
  - [Beyond-use Date in Vial or Syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [10 Things Providers Need to Know About the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#)
- Recent updates to the CDC Communication and Education Products:
  - [Recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis](#)
  - [Customizable COVID-19 Vaccine Content for Community-Based Organizations](#)
  - [Customizable COVID-19 Vaccine Content for Essential Workers](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccines for Teachers, School Staff, and Childcare Workers](#)