



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
 - Report deficiencies to the DPH Vaccine Unit at 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 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 MCVF 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 1st and 2nd doses, use the vaccine received to first meet all your 2nd dose commitments. After meeting your 2nd dose commitments, any remaining vaccine may be used for first doses.
 - Do not schedule appointments for 1st doses until you have received confirmation of the number of doses you have been allocated and you know that all your 2nd 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 2nd doses.
 - Please also review [key messages](#) about scheduling 2nd doses. Every effort should be made to schedule 2nd dose appointments at the time of the 1st 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](#)