



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 5/23/2022

LATEST NUMBERS

- As of 5/23/2022 **5,380,815** people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

WHO TO VACCINATE THIS WEEK

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 5 years and older for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). **People ages 5-17 can get the Pfizer vaccine. People age 18+ can get any vaccine (mRNA vaccines are preferred in most situations).**

- A primary series for anyone **ages 5 and older** who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts is eligible for a vaccine. Health care providers can also vaccinate their patient panels regardless of place of residency.
- New** A booster dose for all persons **ages 5 years and older**
 - At least 5 months** after completion of an **mRNA** vaccine primary series.
 - At least 2 months** after completion of a **Janssen** primary dose.
 - mRNA COVID19 vaccines are preferred
 - Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine should only be used in limited situations. See [Contraindications and precautions](#) and [Safety considerations for Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#).
- These groups may receive a **second booster dose**, which must be an mRNA vaccine, **at least 4 months after their first booster dose**:
 - All people aged 12 years and older who **are** moderately or severely immunocompromised
 - Adults aged 50 years and older
 - Adults aged 18–49 years who are **not** moderately or severely immunocompromised and who received **Janssen** as **both** their primary series dose and booster dose
- See below for more information for persons who are immunocompromised

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

New CDC Strengthens Recommendations and Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots

On May 19, 2022, CDC expanded eligibility of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to everyone 5 years of age and older. CDC now recommends that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series.

In addition, CDC strengthened its recommendation that those 12 and older who are immunocompromised and those 50 and older **should** receive a second booster dose at least 4 months after their first.

Read the media statement [here](#).

New CDC launches interactive tool for the public to assess need for first or second booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine

CDC added a new [interactive tool](#) to help users identify whether they (or someone else) need to receive a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The “COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters” tool asks a series of simple questions about age, immunocompromise, number and type of previous doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and how long ago they received the most recent vaccination. From these answers, the tool reports whether a first or second booster dose may be beneficial and presents considerations for when to receive it.

New VRBPAC Tentative Meeting Schedule - June 2022

The FDA VRBPAC committee released tentative dates for virtual meetings in anticipation of upcoming EUAs for COVID vaccines announced by vaccine manufacturers. See [VRBPAC announcement](#).

- June 7 - Novavax 18+
- June 8, 21, and 22 - Pfizer/Moderna EUA under 5/6 years old
- June 28 - COVID strain selection/future boosters

New COVID-19 vaccine formulations currently approved or authorized in the United States

Table 1 of the Clinical Considerations, shown here, has been updated. **Please note that although a new formulation of Moderna (blue cap) is listed, we do not currently have any of that formulation in MA.** For additional information on the formulations, storage and handling, preparation, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines, see [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information](#).

Table 1. COVID-19 vaccine formulations currently approved or authorized in the United States

Vaccine manufacturer	Age indication	Vaccine vial cap color	Dilution required	Primary series		Booster doses	
				Dose	Injection volume	Dose	Injection volume
Pfizer-BioNTech	5–11 years	Orange*	Yes	10 µg	0.2 mL	10 µg	0.2 mL
Pfizer-BioNTech	12 years and older	Purple*	Yes	30 µg	0.3 mL	30 µg	0.3 mL
Pfizer-BioNTech	12 years and older	Gray*	No	30 µg	0.3 mL	30 µg	0.3 mL
Moderna	18 years and older	Red†	No	100 µg	0.5 mL	50 µg	0.25 mL
Moderna	18 years and older	Blue†	No	NA	NA	50 µg	0.5 mL
Janssen	18 years and older	Blue	No	5×10 ¹⁰ viral particles	0.5 mL	5×10 ¹⁰ viral particles	0.5 mL

Abbreviation: NA = not applicable

* The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine supplied in a vial with an orange cap is authorized for use only in children ages 5-11 years. It is NOT interchangeable with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for people ages 12 years and older (supplied in vials with a purple cap or a gray cap).

†Either Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine supplied in a vial with a red cap (0.25 mL injection volume) or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine supplied in a vial with a blue cap (0.5 mL injection volume) can be used to administer a 50 µg booster dose.

New COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are NOT immunocompromised

Table 2 of the Clinical Considerations, shown here, has been updated.

Table 2. COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are **not** moderately or severely immunocompromised*

Primary series vaccine manufacturer	Age group	Number of doses in primary series	Number of booster doses†	Interval between 1st and 2nd primary doses‡	Interval between primary series and booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5 years and older	2	1-2	3-8 weeks	At least 5 months
Moderna	18 years and older	2	1-2	4-8 weeks	At least 5 months
Janssen	18 years and older	1	1-2	NA	At least 2 months

Abbreviation: NA = not applicable

*For the vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, see [Table 3](#)

†Number of booster doses for people who are not moderately or severely immunocompromised are as follows:

- All people ages 5 years and older: **Should** receive 1 booster dose of an age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine; an mRNA vaccine is preferred.
- People ages 18-49 years: Those who received Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine as both their primary series dose and booster dose **may** receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the Janssen booster dose.
- People ages 50 years and older: **Should** receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the first booster

‡An **8-week** interval may be optimal for some people ages 5 years and older, especially for males ages 12-39 years. A **shorter interval** (3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech; 4 weeks for Moderna) between the first and second doses remains the recommended interval for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised; adults ages 65 years and older; and in situations in which there is increased concern about [COVID-19 community levels](#) or an individual's higher risk of severe disease.

New Booster doses for people who are NOT moderately or severely immunocompromised

All people ages 5 years and older should receive at least 1 booster dose. An mRNA vaccine is preferred for the first booster dose. Any age-appropriate mRNA vaccine can be used for the booster dose(s): it can be the same mRNA vaccine as the primary series (homologous booster) or a different mRNA vaccine (heterologous booster). J&J/Janssen should only be used in limited situations and cannot be used as a second booster dose.

mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series

- People ages 5–17 years: Should receive 1 booster dose at least 5 months after the second primary series dose, for a total of 3 doses.
- People ages 18–49 years: Should receive 1 booster dose at least 5 months after the second primary series dose, for a total of 3 doses.
- People ages 50 years and older: Should receive 2 booster doses. The first should be administered at least 5 months after completion of the primary series and the second at least 4 months after the first booster dose, for a total of 4 doses.

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary series

- People ages 18–49 years: Should receive 1 booster dose at least 2 months after the single primary series dose, for a total of 2 doses. In addition, people who received Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine as both their primary series dose and first booster dose may receive a second booster dose at least 4 months after the first booster dose, for a total of 3 doses.
- People ages 50 years and older: Should receive 2 booster doses. The first should be administered at least 2 months after the single primary series dose and the second at least 4 months after the first booster dose, for a total of 3 doses.

Interval between primary series and booster doses

First booster dose: The recommended interval is based on the product received for the primary series. In most people, the interval is:

- At least 5 months after an mRNA 2-dose primary series or
- At least 2 months after a Janssen single-dose primary series

Second booster dose: The recommended interval between the first booster dose and the second booster is at least 4 months, regardless of primary series or first booster dose product.

COMING SOON – AN UPDATED second visual of the COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are NOT immunocompromised

New COVID-19 vaccination schedule for moderately or severely immunocompromised persons ages 5 years and older

Table 3 of the Clinical Considerations, shown below, has been updated.

People with immunocompromising conditions or people who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies are at increased risk for severe COVID-19. Because the immune response following COVID-19 vaccination may differ in moderately or severely immunocompromised people, specific guidance for this population is provided.

People who are or who become moderately or severely immunocompromised should follow the COVID-19 vaccination schedule according to their age and immune status at the time of eligibility for doses. For example, people who become moderately or severely immunocompromised after completing a 2-dose mRNA or single-dose Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary series do not need additional primary doses; however, they should follow the schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised for booster doses. For situations in which diminished vaccine efficacy is anticipated, see [Additional considerations](#) for vaccination outside of the FDA and CDC dosing intervals on a case-by-case basis. Use of mRNA vaccines is preferred.

For more detailed information about schedules and booster doses for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, see [Guidance for COVID-19 vaccination for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised](#). Also see [Appendix D](#) - D1. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and initiate a Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary series, and D2. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and initiate an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series

Table 3. COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

Primary vaccination	Age group	Number of primary vaccine doses	Number of booster doses*	Interval between 1st and 2nd dose	Interval between 2nd and 3rd dose	Interval between 3rd and 4th dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5 years and older	3	1-2	3 weeks	At least 4 weeks	At least 3 months
Moderna	18 years and older	3	2	4 weeks	At least 4 weeks	At least 3 months
Janssen	18 years and older	1 Janssen, followed by 1 mRNA	2	4 weeks	At least 2 months	NA

Abbreviation: NA = not applicable

*Number of booster doses for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised:

- All people ages 5 years and older: **Should** receive 1 booster dose of an age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine; an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is preferred.
- People ages 12 years and older: **Should** receive a second booster dose using an age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months after the first booster dose.

COMING SOON – AN UPDATED second visual of the COVID-19 vaccination schedule for people with moderate or severe immunocompromise

New Primary series for people who ARE immunocompromised mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

A 3-dose primary series is recommended for people ages 5 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised at the time of vaccination ([Table 3](#)). The same mRNA vaccine product should be used for all doses of the primary series (see [Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products](#)).

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (5 years and older): The second dose is administered 3 weeks after the first dose; the third dose is administered at least 4 weeks after the second dose.

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (18 years and older): The second dose is administered 4 weeks after the first dose; the third dose is administered at least 4 weeks after the second dose. The dose is 100 µg (0.5 ml [red cap vial]) for all doses in the primary series.

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

An mRNA vaccine is preferred; in [limited situations](#) a single primary Janssen vaccine dose can be used for people ages 18 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, followed by a second (additional) dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 weeks later (see [Appendix D](#) for additional information). If Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is used for the second dose, administer a 100 µg (0.5 ml [red cap vial]) dose.

New Booster doses for people who are immunocompromised

All people ages 5 years and older and who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive at least 1 booster dose. An mRNA vaccine is preferred for the first booster dose. Any age-appropriate mRNA vaccine can be used for the booster dose(s): it can be the same mRNA vaccine as the primary series (homologous booster) or a different mRNA vaccine (heterologous booster). Janssen should only be used in limited situations and cannot be used as a second booster dose.

mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series

- People ages 5-11 years: Should receive 1 booster dose at least 3 months after the third primary dose, for a total of 4 doses.
- People ages 12 years and older: Should receive 2 booster doses. The first should be administered at least 3 months after completion of the primary series and the second at least 4 months after the first booster dose, for a total of 5 doses.

Special situation: For people who inadvertently received the booster dose before their third primary dose, regardless of type of vaccine received as the booster dose, administer a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or a Moderna vaccine (100 µg [0.5 mL, red cap vial]) as the fourth dose (third primary) at least 3 months after the third dose. See [Appendix D](#) for additional guidance.

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary series

People ages 18 years and older should receive 2 booster doses. The first should be administered at least 2 months after the second (additional) dose and the second at least 4 months after the first booster dose, for a total of 4 doses.

Special situation: Many recipients of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine may have received a booster dose (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna [50 µg], or Janssen vaccine), without having had the second (additional) mRNA vaccine dose. In this situation, regardless of type and timing of vaccine received as the second dose, administer a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or a Moderna vaccine (100 µg [0.5 mL, red cap vial]) as the third (additional) dose at least 2 months after dose 2. See [Appendix D](#) for additional dose information for Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine recipients.

Reminder Prevent errors in vaccine administration from occurring!

Be sure you are using the correct vaccine for the age you are vaccinating.

- **Pfizer vaccine is color coded. Orange is for ages 5-11. Purple and gray are for ages 12+.**
- Moderna is for ages 18+
- Janssen is for ages 18+

Be sure you know whether the vaccine you are using requires a diluent or not.

- **Pfizer Orange** must be mixed before using, with **1.3 mL** of 0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline)
- **Pfizer Purple** must be mixed before using, with **1.8 mL** of 0.9% sodium chloride (preservative-free, normal saline)
- **Pfizer Gray** - do NOT mix with any diluent
- **Moderna** - do NOT mix with any diluent
- **Janssen** - do NOT mix with any diluent

Use reference materials

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- Standing Orders
 - Pfizer
 - [5-11 Orange Cap](#) (updated 3/31/22)
 - [12 + Gray Cap](#) (updated 4/22/22)
 - [12 + Purple Cap](#) (updated 4/22/22)
 - [Moderna](#) (updated 4/22/22)
 - [Janssen](#) (updated 4/26/22)
- Preparation & Administration Summaries
 - Pfizer
 - [5-11 Orange Cap](#) (updated 3/3/22)
 - [12 + Gray Cap](#) (updated 4/6/22)
 - [12 + Purple Cap](#) (updated 4/6/22)
 - [Moderna](#) (updated 4/6/22)
 - [Janssen](#) (updated 4/6/22)
- From the main page at [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information](#) you can also get to a Preparation Infographic for each formulation, a [Pfizer Vaccine Dosage Chart](#), and other vaccine specific information.

Reminder Watch for Expired Vaccine

Providers should make it a practice to regularly check inventory for expired vaccine and immediately remove expired inventory to prevent it from being administered.

Vaccine Expiration Date Lookup & Reference Information:

- [Expiry Information for Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Moderna Vial Expiration Date Look-up Tool](#)
- [Janssen Expiration Date Lookup Tool](#)

Reminder EUA Fact Sheets

Once a new EUA Fact Sheet is issued, it must be used. Previous ones no longer contain accurate information.

- Pfizer, HCP, 12 years of age and older, purple cap (must dilute): <https://www.fda.gov/media/153713/download>
- Pfizer, HCP, 12 years of age and older, gray cap (no dilution): <https://www.fda.gov/media/153715/download>
- Pfizer, HCP, 5 - 11 years of age, orange cap (must dilute): <https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download>
- Pfizer, Recipient, 12 years of age and older: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153716/download>
- Pfizer, Recipient, 5-11 years: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download>
- Moderna, HCP, red cap and label with a light blue border which can be used for primary series doses and for a booster dose: <https://www.fda.gov/media/157233/download>
- Moderna, HCP, dark blue cap and label with a purple border which can be used only for a booster dose (not yet available in MA): <https://www.fda.gov/media/157232/download>
- Moderna, Recipient: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>
- Janssen, HCP: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>
- Janssen, Recipient: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>

Reminder EUI Fact Sheets

CDC has issued EUI for use of the COVID-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna for primary, additional, and/or booster doses in certain individuals. The EUI are necessary because these uses extend beyond their FDA-approved labeling. The EUI and CDC's clinical guidance help to ensure these individuals can get primary, additional, and/or booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer or Moderna so they can be better protected against COVID-19. The EUI are currently issued only for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines since EUI can only apply to FDA-approved medical products.

- Pfizer, HCP: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/pfizer-HCP.pdf>
- Pfizer, Recipient: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/Pfizer-Caregiver.pdf>
- Moderna, HCP: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/Moderna-HCP.pdf>
- Moderna, Recipient: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/Moderna-Caregiver.pdf>
- EUI [FAQs](#)

RESOURCES & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Reminder COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules

CDC's four training modules (General Overview, Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen) can be found [here](#).

Reminder COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series

CDC is offering a series of brief (15-20 minute) webinars addressing topics around COVID-19 vaccination. These interactive, web-based training modules offer a real-world perspective on different issues around COVID-19 vaccines. Topics range from routine clinical and vaccine safety information to guidance for on-site clinic vaccination activities and having conversations with vaccine recipients. Each webinar includes self-test practice questions and lists additional resources related to the topic discussed. The landing page for all mini webinars is here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/webinars.html>

Reminder COVID-19 Quick Reference Guide

CDC's [quick reference guide](#) is a 2-page document that provides basic information on the proper storage, preparation, and administration of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine products in the United States.

Reminder CDC launches "Interactive COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations Module for Healthcare Professionals"

CDC has launched a new resource to equip healthcare professionals with the tools they need to have effective COVID-19 vaccine conversations with patients. The [Interactive COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations Module for Healthcare Professionals](#) includes:

- Tips for Having Effective Vaccine Conversations with Patients
- Vaccine Conversations in Practice: Case Scenarios

Reminder Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Updates on Current & Immunization Site Training

Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs continues to host frequent (almost daily) *Medical Updates & Immunization Site Training for All Providers*. Session topics include:

- Use of vaccine for Children 5 through 11 Years of Age, and Individuals 12 Years of Age and Older
- Storage, Handling, Preparation, & Administration for the multiple presentations of the vaccine
- Recent medical updates regarding the vaccine
- An overview of healthcare provider resources
- Question and answer session

To access current and future training sessions, please visit: <https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates>

Reminder Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, better known as MMWR, is CDC's primary publication for disseminating the science it produces. The staff at MMWR have launched a [landing page](#) to help people find the latest information on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and safety.

Recent CDC MMWRs

May 6, 2022

- [Effectiveness of a COVID-19 Additional Primary or Booster Vaccine Dose in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents During Widespread Circulation of the Omicron Variant — United States, February 14–March 27, 2022](#)

April 29, 2022

- [Provisional Mortality Data — United States, 2021](#)
- [Provisional COVID-19 Age-Adjusted Death Rates, by Race and Ethnicity — United States, 2020–2021](#)
- [Seroprevalence of Infection-Induced SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies — United States, September 2021–February 2022](#)

MDPH RESOURCES

Reminder Massachusetts Resources

- COVID-19 [Vaccine Information](#)
- COVID-19 [booster information](#) and [booster frequently asked questions](#)
- Search for Vaccine locations: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line/2-1-1 is available for individuals who are unable to use Vaxfinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet. Available in English and Spanish and has translators available in approximately 100 additional languages.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Training and Education Resources for Providers: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-training-and-education-resources-for-providers>
- [Multilingual COVID-19 Materials](#). Resources related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in multiple languages. Includes videos and printables on topics like vaccine safety, pregnancy and the vaccine, and FAQs.

Immunization Division Main Number

For questions about immunization recommendations, disease reporting, etc.

Phone: 617-983-6800 (24/7 MDPH Epi line)

Fax: 617-983-6840

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/topics/immunization>

MIIS Help Desk

Phone: 617-983-4335

Fax: 857-323-8321

Email questions to: miishelpdesk@mass.gov

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-immunization-information-system-miis>

MDPH Vaccine Unit

Phone: 617-983-6828

Email questions to: dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/vaccine-management>

COVID-19 Email Box Email questions to: COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov