



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 4/8/21

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 4/8, 5,052,940 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 4,204,152 doses (83.2%) have been administered.

Who to Vaccinate this Week

- Beginning Monday, April 19, anyone age 16 and older will be eligible for a vaccine.
- 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 are eligible to receive the vaccine in Massachusetts.
- 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 Updated Moderna EUA factsheet for healthcare providers:** The [EUA factsheet for healthcare providers](#) was updated 3/31/21 to reflect the following changes:
 - Maximum 11-dose vial for current presentation and new maximum 15-dose vial presentation with ranges. Maximum 15-dose vial presentation has new NDC #s (UoS: 80777-273-98; UoU 80777-273-15).
 - Depending on the syringes and needles used, there may not be sufficient volume to extract more than 10 doses from the maximum of 11 doses vial or more than 13 doses from the maximum of 15 doses vial. Each dose must contain 0.5 ml of Moderna vaccine. Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials. Pierce the stopper at a different site each time.
 - Lower limit for frozen temperature now -50°C (previously -25°C). Do not use dry ice.
 - Store unpunctured vials between 8° to 25°C for a total of 24 hours (previously 12 hours).

- After puncture, hold the vial between 2° to 25°C; discard 12 hours after the first puncture (previously 6 hours).
- Thawed vials can be handled in room light conditions.
- New section for transportation of thawed vials at refrigerated condition 2° to 8°C.
- Severe adverse reactions, including anaphylaxis, have been reported during mass vaccination outside of clinical trials.
- Delayed injection site reactions that began >7 days after vaccination were reported in 1.2% of vaccine recipients and 0.4% of placebo recipients. Delayed injection site reactions included pain, erythema, and swelling and are likely related to vaccination.
- Also see the Moderna [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) (Updated 3/26/21).
- **New *Ensure patient safety at vaccination clinics:*** Use the [CDC COVID-19 Patient Safety Checklist for Vaccination Clinics](#) to ensure your clinic is following the best practices for patient safety and vaccine handling and administration.
- **New *Ensure vaccinators have the following at their station:***
 - Standing Orders
 - Prevacination Checklist (screening form)
 - Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#)

The product-specific Standing Orders and Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summaries, as well as the Prevacination Checklist (in English and 6 additional languages), can be found under the Administration Resources section of each product page ([Pfizer](#), [Moderna](#), and [Janssen/J&J](#)). These pages also have product-specific training modules.

- **New *Assess staff and volunteer competencies:*** CDC and IAC have tools for self-assessment and supervisor review of skills, techniques, and procedures.
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competency Assessment Form](#)
 - [IAC Skills Checklist for Vaccine Administration](#)
- **New *Maximizing doses per vial of Pfizer vaccine:*** This informational [USP video](#) helps healthcare providers maximize doses per vial of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Additional USP resources are in the Resource section below.
- **New *Return Pfizer thermal shipping containers:*** Shipping containers may be used as temporary storage of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for up to 30 days from delivery. After use, [follow these instructions](#) to return the container, including the temperature-monitoring device, to the supplier.
- **New *Unused ancillary kit supplies:*** Providers with excess unused ancillary kit supplies should contact the DPH Vaccine Unit at dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us and enter 'Excess ancillary kit supplies' in the subject line.
- **Updated *Replacing lost COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards:*** Patients should be encouraged to obtain a record of their immunization record directly from the administering provider or site.
 - COVID-19 vaccine providers and vaccination sites should keep the blank Record Cards that they get in the ancillary kits that accompany vaccine that they will use for 2nd doses. Sites can also order blank COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards in English and Spanish from the [Massachusetts Clearing House](#) at no cost.
 - Providers should use vaccine records to note the patient's COVID-19 vaccinations on the replacement card.

- If the provider does not have access to the patient’s immunization record, the provider may access the patient’s immunization record in the MIIS. This MIIS [Mini Guide](#) provides step by step instructions for providers to access and print a patient’s immunization record in the MIIS.
- The MIIS cannot provide patients with COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards.
- Encourage vaccine recipients to take a photo of their Vaccination Record Cards.
- **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
- **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.
- **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 \(VAERS\)](#).

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A for Vaccine Providers, April 12 from 1-2pm. [Register here](#).
- 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](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for MCVP Providers](#): 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 who to contact with questions.
- [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](#)
- 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](#)