



# MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

## BULLETIN

### What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 10/15/21

#### Latest Numbers

- As of 10/15, **4,681,457** people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

#### Who to Vaccinate this Week

- Anyone age 12 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.
- **Reminder** Effective 9/24/2021, CDC recommends a Pfizer-BioNTech [booster](#) for certain people who received the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months ago. *See below for more information.*
- Effective 8/13/21, CDC recommends that people who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) receive an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at least 28 days after the completion of the initial mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.

#### What to Know this Week

**New** FDA's advisory committee will meet to discuss the following topics:

- [October 14](#): Moderna booster
- [October 15](#): J&J booster; and mixing and matching vaccines
- [October 26](#): 5-11 year old vaccine

If the FDA votes in favor of any of these, then the ACIP and CDC will review it. ACIP has meetings currently scheduled for October 21 & 22, and November 2 & 3. Agendas have not yet been posted.

#### **Reminder** Pfizer-BioNTech boosters

***These recommendations are ONLY for those who originally received the two-dose series of Pfizer's COVID vaccine. Booster doses might be recommended in the future for those who received COVID vaccines manufactured by Moderna or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), but there isn't enough research available yet to make that call. The FDA Advisory Committee will be meeting on October 14 and 15 to discuss Moderna, J&J, and mixed boosters.***

CDC recommends that the following groups **should** receive a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary vaccine series:

- People aged 65 years and older
- Residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings
- People aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#)

CDC recommends that a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine should be made available so that the following groups **may** receive a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary vaccine series, based on their individual benefits and risks:

- People aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#)
- People aged 18–64 years at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting

### **New Booster checkbox online**

On [Vaxfinder](#), Massachusetts' COVID-19 vaccine finder, you'll now find a box to check if you are looking specifically for a Pfizer booster dose.

### **Updated Pfizer resources**

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot](#) – updated 9/30/21
- [Clinical Considerations](#) – updated 9/27/21
- Pfizer [standing orders](#) – updated 9/28/21
- CDC [Pfizer webpage](#) - watch for updated screening form and other documents
- Pfizer EUA/Fact Sheet updated September 22
- Providers <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>
- Recipients <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

### **New/Updated Massachusetts resources**

- COVID-19 [booster frequently asked questions](#)
- Eligibility [questions and an Eligibility Checker](#) tool
- 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 Information](#)

**Reminder** CDC issued a [Health Advisory](#) recommending urgent action to increase COVID-19 vaccination among people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), or trying to get pregnant. Compared to non-pregnant people, pregnant and recently pregnant people infected with COVID-19 are [at increased risk for severe illness](#) (including hospitalization, intensive care admission, mechanical ventilation, and even death). COVID-19 infection in pregnant people may also increase the risk of preterm birth.

CDC's updated guidance on [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#) includes:

- *COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future.*
- *Evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy has been growing. These data suggest that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy.*
- *There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in women or men.*

- *Pregnant and recently pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 compared with non-pregnant people.*
- *Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can protect you from severe illness from COVID-19.*

**Reminder** CDC guidance supports [coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines](#), including influenza vaccines, without regard to timing.

- ACIP 2021/2022 flu recommendations:
  - Full report: [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2021–22 Influenza Season.](#)
  - Full report pdf: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/rr/pdfs/rr7005a1-H.pdf>
  - Summary <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/summary/summary-recommendations.htm>
  - Summary pdf: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/professionals/acip/acip-2020-21-summary-of-recommendations.pdf>

**Reminder COVID Vaccine Ordering** All vaccine orders placed in the MIIS are reviewed and approved within 3 business days after being submitted. Once approved, the Vaccine Management Unit submits orders daily to the CDC for processing and shipping. CDC ships vaccines within 3-4 business days. Orders from sites showing large, expiring, or expired doses of COVID vaccine inventory could be delayed, reduced, or canceled by the Vaccine Management Unit. To prevent orders from being delayed, reduced, or canceled providers must:

- ensure that the MIIS inventory matches the site’s physical inventory
- confirm that all doses administered have been reported and processed in MIIS
- confirm that all storage and handling issues have been reported in MIIS

**Please Note:** Repackaging of COVID vaccines doses for smaller ordering sizes is only available for primary care provider (PCP) offices – (pediatric, family medicine, internal medicine practices in addition to small specialty practices). Smaller dose orders can still be placed as usual in MIIS. Individual exceptions to these ordering limitations may be made on a case by case basis by contacting the Vaccine Unit.

**Update:** The minimum dose amounts orderable by PCPs has changed to:

- **60 doses (6 dose vial) of Pfizer**
- **70 doses (14 dose vial) of Moderna**
- **25 doses (5 dose vial) of Johnson & Johnson**

The Vaccine Unit will be fulfilling orders from the State Lab, and courier services will deliver vaccines and ancillary kits. Vaccines are transported in a cooler and in a refrigerated temperature range with a digital data logger. Upon receiving Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, ensure vaccines are placed in the refrigerator and write the beyond used date on the vials.

For all other provider sites, the following packaging presentation of COVID-19 vaccines are available for ordering:

- Pfizer 1170 doses
- Moderna 100 doses
- Moderna 140 doses
- Johnson and Johnson 100 doses

Pfizer 450 dose is no longer available for ordering.

All providers must continue to:

- Administer all doses within 30 days of receipt
- Report to the MIIS all doses within 24 hours of administration
- Agree to [allowable vaccine wastage guidelines](#)

**Reminder CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards** As a reminder, COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards remain property of the U.S. Government until provided to the vaccine recipient following vaccination. Unauthorized use and reproduction of the cards constitute fraud. Healthcare providers are encouraged to keep ample supply of vaccination record cards on site for those patients requesting replacements. Healthcare providers can order extra print copies from the [MA Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#).

## Resources & Learning Opportunities

### **New Vaccine Providers: Check Out CDC's New Learning Module on Vaccine Coadministration**

CDC has a new resource for vaccine providers on [coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines](#), including flu vaccines. This module covers clinical considerations, best practices, and resources on coadministration. Providers are encouraged to offer patients COVID-19 vaccine and flu vaccine at the same visit if the timing coincides. Continuing education is available for this course.

### **New Watch the 2021 NFID Influenza/Pneumococcal Disease News Conference**

In case you missed it, watch a recording of the [CDC and NFID news conference](#) on October 7 to launch the 2021-2022 flu vaccination season. Experts, including CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky and NFID Medical Director Dr. William Schaffner, emphasized the importance of flu and pneumococcal vaccination this season, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reminder** The AAP has launched a [COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign Toolkit](#) containing customizable messages, videos, and graphics to help reassure parents and caregivers about the COVID-19 vaccine for children, teens, and young adults. The contents of this toolkit are designed to reach parents who have not yet vaccinated their eligible children and encourage them to talk to a trusted provider.

**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.

## **New CDC MMWRs**

### **October 8, 2021**

- [Distribution of SARS-CoV-2 Variants in a Large Integrated Health Care System — California, March–July 2021](#)
- [Multicomponent Strategies to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Transmission — Nine Overnight Youth Summer Camps, United States, June–August 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Outbreaks at Youth Summer Camps — Louisiana, June–July 2021](#)
- [National and State Trends in Anxiety and Depression Severity Scores Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, 2020–2021](#)

### **October 1, 2021**

- [Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Status, Intent, and Perceived Access for Noninstitutionalized Adults, by Disability Status — National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021](#)

- [Association Between K–12 School Mask Policies and School-Associated COVID-19 Outbreaks — Maricopa and Pima Counties, Arizona, July–August 2021](#)
- [COVID-19–Related School Closures and Learning Modality Changes — United States, August 1–September 17, 2021](#)
- [Pediatric COVID-19 Cases in Counties With and Without School Mask Requirements — United States, July 1–September 4, 2021](#)
- [Safety Monitoring of an Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, August 12–September 19, 2021](#)

**Reminder** MDPH Immunization Division is pleased to present [free accredited COVID-19 Vaccine content](#). These training sessions are designed for health care providers, vaccine coordinators, and all health care personnel who handle and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines.

### MDPH Resources

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov)

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

#### COVID email box:

Email questions to: [COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov)