



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 11/10/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 11/10/2021 **4,761,496** people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

Who to Vaccinate this Week

- Anyone age 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.
- **Reminder** Effective 11/2/2021, CDC recommends Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 years. The Pfizer pediatric (5-11 years of age) vaccine formulation:
 - Comes as a multiple dose vial with an orange cap and a label with an orange border
 - The vials and cartons state ‘for age 5 years to <12 years’
 - Must be diluted
 - Primary series of 2 doses (0.2 mL each) 3 weeks apart in individuals 5 through 11 years of age
 - Is NOT interchangeable with the 12 and older formulations
 - See the [Factsheet](#) for preparation and administration information
 - CDC webpage on [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11 Years Old](#)
- COCA Call – Thursday, November 4th - Recording & Slides available here: ([Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC’s Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Children 5–11 years old](#))
- Effective 10/21/2021, CDC recommends a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. *See below for more information.*
 - Certain individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for a booster shot 6 months or more after their initial series.
 - All people who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine are recommended to get a booster shot if it has been at least 2 months since their primary dose.
- **Reminder** Booster Eligibility Graphic - The new MDPH Booster Decision tree graphic is available in several languages on mass.gov. Providers are encouraged to use this resource to assist with the *Who, When* and *Which Booster Shot* decision making process. [Booster Eligibility Graphic](#)
- 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

Reminder Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine authorized by FDA and CDC for children ages 5-11 years

On November 2, 2021, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine.

- CDC webpage on [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11 Years Old](#)
- CDC Press Release: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1102-PediatricCOVID-19Vaccine.html>

On 10/29/2021, the FDA amended Pfizer-BioNTech's Emergency Use Authorization to allow the vaccine to be administered to children ages 5 to 11 years. FDA resources are available at:

- [Press Release](#)
- [Updated Pfizer Factsheets](#)
- [Pfizer HCP Factsheet](#) 5-11 years, orange cap, must dilute
- [Pfizer Recipient Factsheet](#) 5-11 years, orange cap, must dilute

New Adding Pediatric Clinics in VaxFinder – For practices planning to offer Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for the 5-11 year old age group beyond their regular patient panels (such as to your surrounding community) please list your practice on the state VaxFinder site. The site allows practices to list:

- the ages of patients you will see
- the days and times of your clinics
- whether the clinic is walk-in or by appointment

In general, these clinics need to be more than a single event and be available across multiple dates as well as have the capacity to vaccinate a minimum of 25 patients at each clinic.

A provider looking to post on VaxFinder should fill out this form: [VaxFinder Site Update Form](#)

Buoy Health will follow up with your practice to confirm and complete the listing and add your clinics to VaxFinder as well as place it on the map found on the [Vaccination Locations page](#). These listings are updated daily.

Reminder Updated EUAs:

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

- Pfizer Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>
- Pfizer Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>
- Pfizer, HCP, 5-11 years: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download>
- Pfizer, Recipient, 5-11 years: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download>
- Moderna Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>
- Moderna Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>
- Janssen Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>
- Janssen Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>

Reminder Watch for new/updated CDC resources and upcoming CDC informational activities related to the recommendation, including:

- Updated [booster shot webpage](#) for the public
- Updated [Clinical Considerations](#)
- Updated [U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information](#) (screening form, standing orders, product info)
 - [Pfizer Standing Orders](#) (not yet inclusive of the 5-11 year olds)
 - [Moderna Standing Orders](#)
 - [Janssen/J&J Standing Orders](#)

New V-Safe is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to give personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Through v-safe, patients can quickly tell CDC if they have any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. This information helps CDC monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in near real time. V-safe has added a section to add on dependents. As kids 5-11 are getting vaccinated we recommend getting them in the system. This is a great system for safety monitoring and getting confidence or identifying possible issues.

Here is the link to the website for more information: [Enroll Your Dependent in v-safe | CDC](#)

Reminder COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots are now authorized for some people
COVID-19 vaccine booster, after a mRNA primary series (Pfizer or Moderna)

People in the following groups are eligible to receive a booster shot at least 6 months after completion of their mRNA primary series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#)
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)
- Age 18+ who work in [high-risk settings](#)
- Age 18+ who live in [high-risk settings](#)

COVID-19 vaccine booster, after a J&J/Janssen primary series

People in the following groups are recommended to receive a booster shot at least 2 months after their J&J/Janssen vaccine:

- Everyone age 18+

New COVID-19 vaccine dosages

Primary series

Primary and additional primary doses vaccine manufacturer	Age of recipient (years)	Vial cap color denoting formulation	Concentration of mRNA per primary dose	Primary dosage injection volume	Number of doses in primary series (interval between doses)	Additional primary dose in immunocompromised people (interval since second dose)	Interval between last primary (including additional) to booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5–11	Orange	10 µg	0.2 ml	2 (21 days)	Not recommended	Booster not recommended
Pfizer-BioNTech	12–17	Purple	30 µg	0.3 ml	2 (21 days)	1 (≥28 days)	Booster not recommended
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥18	Purple	30 µg	0.3 ml	2 (21 days)	1 (≥28 days)	≥6 months
Moderna	≥18	Not applicable	100 µg	0.5 ml	2 (28 days)	1 (≥28 days)	≥6 months
Janssen	≥18	Not applicable	5×10 ¹⁰ viral particles	0.5 ml	1 (Not applicable)	Not applicable	≥2 months

Booster dose

Booster dose vaccine manufacturer	Age of recipient (years)	Vial cap color denoting formulation	Booster dose	Booster dose injection volume	Number of doses
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥18	Purple	30 µg	0.3 ml	1
Moderna	≥18	Not applicable	50 µg*	0.25 ml	1
Janssen	≥18	Not applicable	5×10 ¹⁰ viral particles	0.5 ml	1

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

Important notes:

- The primary series should be completed with the same product.
- Booster doses can be any product. The **Moderna booster dose is half the dose used in the primary series.**
- If eligible for a booster dose, someone who received a Pfizer primary series can get any FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) as the booster dose, at an interval of ≥6 months since primary vaccination.
- If eligible for a booster dose, someone who received a Moderna primary series can get any FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) as the booster dose, at an interval of ≥6 months since primary vaccination.
- Persons aged ≥18 years who received primary vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should receive a single COVID-19 vaccine booster dose ≥2 months after their primary dose. Any FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) can be used as the booster dose, at an interval of ≥2 months after the primary Janssen vaccine dose.

Reminder Moderna Multidose Vials (MDVs)

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is supplied in two MDV presentations: A MDV containing 5.5 mL and a MDV containing 7.5 mL. Primary series doses of 0.5 mL and booster doses of 0.25 mL may be extracted from either vial presentation. If the amount of vaccine remaining in the vial cannot provide a full dose of 0.5 mL or 0.25 mL, discard the vial and contents. Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials.

- When extracting only primary series doses, a maximum of 11 doses (range: 10-11 doses) may be extracted from the vial containing 5.5 mL or a maximum of 15 doses (range: 13-15 doses) may be extracted from the vial containing 7.5 mL.
- When extracting only booster doses or a combination of primary series and booster doses, the maximum number of doses that may be extracted from either vial presentation should not exceed 20 doses. **Do not puncture the vial stopper more than 20 times.**
- The link below is provided to assist with determining the amount of waste that may be reported in vials of Moderna 14 or Moderna 10 when administering a combination of primary (0.5mL) and booster (0.25mL) doses. [Guidance for Vaccine Providers and Organizations](#)
 - Process a [storage and handling issue](#) in the MIIS to report the wasted doses remaining in the vial.

Reminder Mixing and Matching COVID-19 Vaccines (heterologous boosters)

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a [booster](#) dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix-and-match dosing for booster shots. People who have questions about whether one vaccine is better for them than the others should discuss their individual situation with their healthcare provider. CDC has indicated that individual risk-benefit

assessment informing which booster product to use may include the availability of booster product and the risk profile of vaccine boosters, including rare events.

****Important Note:** this **mix and match is for booster doses only!** All doses of the primary series and additional dose (if indicated for moderately to severely immunocompromised people who received 2 doses of mRNA vaccine) should utilize the same vaccine product.

Reminder Definition of “fully vaccinated” has not changed. At this time, people are still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

Reminder Coadministration

If a patient is eligible, both flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same visit, as recommended by [CDC and ACIP](#). In addition to flu vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine can be given with other vaccines as well.

Reminder Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs will be hosting **Immunization Site Training Sessions for All Providers on the Storage, Handling, & Administration for Current & Potential New Formulations** of our COVID-19 vaccine.

These sessions will be **updated** to reflect new information and changes that evolve. Such updates will be identified at the start of each session and further explained during each presentation.

Use the links below to join the sessions at the designated times.

Date & Time	Password
Attendee link – November 10 – 12 PM ET	QPfX8RMy8M7
Attendee link – November 11 – 12 PM ET	Tntjh4UMr55
Attendee link – November 12 – 12 PM ET	mfP2vm8HhD5
Attendee link – November 15 – 5 PM ET	SUej7teYc45
Attendee link – November 16 – 5 PM ET	ZMjtfDdn438
Attendee link – November 17 – 12 PM ET	YYkSGJGT848
Attendee link – November 18 – 12 PM ET	8ZGbRrha2f8
Attendee link – November 19 – 12 PM ET	PzpX4ZPnT63
Attendee link – November 22 – 5 PM ET	YKwPs6P85cH
Attendee link – November 23 – 5 PM ET	S4wspGuhN33
Attendee link – November 24 – 12 PM ET	iWpzpvHh667

- **Reminder** Moderna is offering a webinar for vaccination providers to learn more about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose, which has been authorized for emergency use in the United States. There will be no continuing education offered for this webinar. Thursday, November 11th at 12pm ET – [Register here for Nov 11](#)

Reminder **The Importance of Keeping Consumer Demographic Information in MIIS Up to Date During COVID-19:** Due to increased demand for access to vaccination records and proof of vaccination, it is critical that vaccination records remain as up-to-date as possible in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). As Massachusetts explores potential vaccine credential systems, the Department of Public Health is strongly encouraging providers to ensure they have an email address and/or phone number for every patient in their MIIS immunization records. For example, providers can do this via automated emails or text messages to their patients or by reconciling their internal records so each patient can be reached by phone or email.

The MIIS allows providers to access their patient records through this web-based application to enable demographic and immunization updates. You can view [Patient Lookup in the MIIS](#) for more information. Technical solutions will be available soon to allow demographic only updates to be sent directly from your electronic health record systems. Please contact the MIIS Helpdesk miishelpdesk@mass.gov for more information.

Reminder 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](#)

New Thanksgiving Holiday Ordering Cadence - NO ORDERS WILL BE DELIVERED NOVEMBER 24 – 28. (Deliveries resume Monday, Nov. 29)

- Plan accordingly and submit your by November 17th to ensure delivery of the vaccines before November 24th.
- There are no guarantee delivery dates for order placed on November 18th or later.

Reminder Ordering of the Pfizer Pediatric (5-11 years old) COVID vaccine is available in the MIIS. Vaccine can be ordered in 100 dose increments. For guidance on how to place COVID vaccine orders in the MIS please see [mini-guide | Flu/COVID-19 order](#).

New Pfizer pediatric 5-11 manufacture date on carton and vial with a format of MM/YYYY. EXPIRATION date is 6 months after the date of manufacture and will fall on the last day of the previous month. For 08/2021 date of manufacture, the expiration date would be January 31, 2022. You can find additional information, including a cross reference table of MFG date to EXP date at: <http://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com>



QR code on the Pfizer Pediatric Vaccine carton is a link to the EUA but does not provide information on expiration date. The date listed is the manufacturing date.

Reminder: Pfizer pediatric formulation must be placed in an Ultracold freezer (until expiration date) or a refrigerator (for up to 10 weeks) upon receiving the vaccine. Do not place the vaccine in a regular freezer or use the shipper as temporary storage. Do not refill the shipper with dry ice.

New COVID-19 Vaccine Product Guides The link below is the updated version of the Product Guide, which includes information on both the Pfizer pediatric 100 and 300 and Moderna booster ancillary supplies. This

guide provides specifications for COVID-19 vaccine and associated products. This is NOT a catalog from which you can order products. It provides key product information including product package dimensions and weight, minimum order quantities, product presentation, distribution method, storage information, and additional information. This guide is updated as more products become available.

<https://www.mass.gov/media/2365116/download>

New Pfizer Pediatric Ancillary Kits The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends a 22–25 gauge 1-inch needle when administering a vaccine by intramuscular injection to children 1 year of age and older. Vaccine administration guidelines are outlined here: [ACIP Vaccine Administration Guidelines for Immunization | CDC](#) and a chart summarizing needle length recommendations can be found here [Vaccine Administration: Needle Gauge and Length \(cdc.gov\)](#). Of note: A copy of this chart is included in each ancillary supply kit.

It is critical for all intramuscular injections that the needle should be long enough to reach the muscle mass and prevent vaccine from seeping into subcutaneous tissue. Some experts allow intramuscular injection with a 5/8-inch needle but **ONLY if the skin is stretched flat**. However, the most common technique when administering an IM injection is grabbing the muscle and bunching subcutaneous and muscle tissue to minimize the chance of striking bone, thus requiring a 1-inch needle or larger to ensure intramuscular administration. Studies have shown that use of longer needles is associated with less redness or swelling than occurs with shorter needles because of injection into deeper muscle mass, preventing irritation of the subcutaneous tissue.

New Updated Ancillary Redistribution Gadget for Healthcare (ARGH) linked below to assist with redistribution efforts. The ARGH tool consists of several tables that calculates the quantity of each kit item that must be repackaged to support administration of the number of doses requested. <https://www.mass.gov/media/2365126/download>

Reminder COVID-19 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-19 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-19 vaccines doses for smaller ordering sizes is only available for primary care provider (PCP) offices – (community health centers, 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.

The minimum dose amounts orderable by PCPs:

- **60 doses (6 dose vial) of Pfizer (12+ formulation)**
- **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 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 (12+) 1170 doses
- Pfizer (12+) 450 doses
- Pfizer pediatric (5-11) 100 doses
- Moderna 100 doses
- Johnson and Johnson 100 doses

New Moderna 140 doses is no longer available for ordering. Moderna 100 doses is now available for ordering.

Reminder Sites must provide a justification to order above the ceiling limits and meet the conditions below:

- Site are maintaining no more than a 30-day supply of vaccine (or up to a 45-day supply for primary care provider offices). Given the ample supply of vaccine, there is no need to order quantities beyond your anticipated 30-day/45-day throughput to ensure adequate supply.
- Report to the MIIS all doses within 24 hours of administration
- Agree to [allowable vaccine wastage guidelines](#) (updated October 13, 2021)
- Process a storage and handling is for wasted/expired doses in the MIIS. The link here is the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Problem - mini guide](#).

Reminder Moderna Expiry Extension Moderna continues to update data regarding extension of expired dates. Expiration dates are in the process of being updated in the MIIS inventory page.

The product **must be maintained in the frozen state** for the extension to be applicable (extension does not apply to thawed vials). Moderna's look up tool remains the official indicator of product expiry.

<https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup#vialLookUpTool>

Resources & Learning Opportunities

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.

CDC MMWRs

November 5, 2021

- **New** [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in Children Aged 5–11 Years — United States, November 2021](#)

October 29, 2021

- [Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 Among Adults Hospitalized with COVID-19–Like Illness with Infection-Induced or mRNA Vaccine-Induced SARS-CoV-2 Immunity — Nine States, January–September 2021](#)
- [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendations for Additional Primary and Booster Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines — United States, 2021](#)

October 29, 2021

- [Severity of Disease Among Adults Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 Before and During the Period of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Predominance — COVID-NET, 14 States, January–August 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination and Non–COVID-19 Mortality Risk — Seven Integrated Health Care Organizations, United States, December 14, 2020–July 31, 2021](#)

Reminder [Influenza During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) - a new course from the American Academy of Pediatric This four-part course series provides key information about the 2021-2022 flu season. The purpose of this PediaLink module is to educate pediatric health care professionals on the current American Academy of Pediatrics policy recommendations for routine use of seasonal influenza vaccine and antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza in infants, children, and adolescents. The recommendations for the prevention and treatment of influenza are updated annually.

Reminder MDPH Immunization Division's [free accredited COVID-19 Vaccine Training](#) was updated on October 13, 2021. A list of the updates is available from a link on the training site home page. These training sessions are designed for health care providers, vaccine coordinators, and all health care personnel who handle and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines.

Reminder 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.

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.

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

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