



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 4/17/21

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 4/16, 5,784,700 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 4,921,580 doses (85.1%) have been administered.

Who to Vaccinate this Week

- Beginning Monday, April 19, anyone age 16 and older who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts will be eligible for a vaccine.
- Sites should maintain wait lists of individuals they can call if they have extra vaccine they can administer by the end of the day to prevent wastage.

What to Know this Week

- **New *Pausing use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine***: On 4/13, the FDA and CDC recommended a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine out of an abundance of caution, after 6 people who received the vaccine developed a rare but serious type of blood clot. DPH has notified all Massachusetts providers to pause administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine until federal health experts investigate this matter. Please review the *4/14 DPH Health Alert*, attached to this bulletin. In addition, if you have Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine on hand, please immediately implement the following CDC operational guidance until further notice:
 - Mark any Janssen/J&J vaccine in your inventory “Do not use. Awaiting guidance.”
 - Continue to store the vaccine in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F).
 - Follow [vaccine storage practices](#) and continue to monitor and document storage unit temperatures.
- **New *Pfizer EUA fact sheets updated 4/6/21***:
 - [Pfizer EUA Fact Sheet for Providers](#)
 - [Pfizer EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccine Recipients](#)
- **New *Moderna EUA fact sheets updated 3/31/21***: Key updates to the [EUA factsheet for healthcare providers](#) include:
 - *Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Vials Contain 10 – 11 Doses*
 - It is possible to extract 11 doses using low dead-volume (LDV) needles/syringes.

- Moderna ancillary supply kits include enough supplies to administer 10 doses per vial. Moderna kits do NOT contain low dead-volume needles/syringes.
 - Given the limited supply of LDV syringes, sites should still plan to reliably extract 10 doses. The 11th dose does not count as waste.
 - Do NOT “borrow” low dead-volume needles/syringes from Pfizer kits.
 - Needles/syringes from the provider’s supply used to withdraw an 11th dose cannot be replaced.
- *Moderna Vaccine Storage*
 - Unpunctured vials – Moderna vials can now be stored frozen between -50° to -15°C (-58° to 5°F). This is a new, wider temperature range that is consistent with other recommended vaccines stored in the freezer.
 - Vials may be stored between 8° to 25°C (46° to 77°F) for a total of 24 hours. This is an increase from 12 hours to 24 hours.
 - Unchanged: Vials may be stored refrigerated between 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to 30 days prior to first use.
 - Punctured vials – After the first dose has been withdrawn, the vial can be held between 2° to 25°C (36° to 77°F) for up to 12 hours. Vials should be discarded 12 hours after the first puncture. This is an increase from 6 hours.
 - USP’s factsheet on [Beyond use date in vial or syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](#) reflects the changes in the Moderna beyond use dates.
 - Use the Moderna [Temperature Excursion Tool](#) to see what to do with vials that may have experienced a temperature excursion prior to administering.
 - **New *How and where to refer patients for COVID-19 vaccine.*** Even if you are not administering COVID-19 vaccine, as your patients’ most-trusted source of information on vaccines, you play a critical role in helping your patients understand the importance of COVID-19 vaccination. Key messaging includes helping your patients understand that all three COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and they all prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death. To help you with these conversations, please see these resources:
 - [Making a Strong Recommendation for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
 - [Trust the Facts, Get the Vax campaign materials](#) in multiple languages.
 - [COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](#) to help your patients find out where to get vaccinated.
 - **New *Revised COVID-19 Vaccine Management Standard Operating Procedure Template & Redistribution Guidance:*** Revised documents are posted on the [mass.gov provider page](#).
 - **New *Identification and health insurance are not required for COVID-19 vaccination:*** Please ensure that all signage and other messaging on site makes it clear that an ID and insurance card are not required for vaccination.
 - **New *Provider sites are responsible for informing patients about the MIIS and for managing data sharing:*** This 10 minute [MIIS Kick Off Video](#) explains the duty to inform and data sharing.
 - The following materials may also help sites comply: [MIIS Fact Sheets](#), [MIIS Posters](#), [MIIS Language Templates](#), [MIIS Sample Workflow for Duty to Inform and Data Sharing](#).
 - The [Data Sharing Mini Guide](#) provides step-by-step instructions for managing data sharing in the MIIS. Read the [MIIS legislation](#) to ensure your organization understands all its responsibilities. Contact the miishelpdesk@mass.gov with any questions.

- **New Newly expanded Vaccine Equity Initiative website:** The [Vaccine Equity Initiative website](#) includes community-specific pages with breakdowns of grants, funding, and resources such as direct assistance with vaccine access, customized data, and more.
- **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.
- **Ensure vaccinators have the following at their station:** 1) Standing Orders, 2) Prevaccination Checklist (screening form), 3) Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary, and 4) [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#). The product-specific Standing Orders and Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summaries, as well as the Prevaccination 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.
- **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](#)
- **Maximize doses per vial of Pfizer vaccine:** This informational [USP video](#) helps healthcare providers maximize doses per vial of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Return Pfizer thermal shipping containers:** Shipping containers may be used as temporary storage of Pfizer 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.
- **Unused ancillary kit supplies:** Providers with excess unused ancillary kit supplies should contact the [DPH Vaccine Unit](#) with 'Excess ancillary kit supplies' in the subject line.

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- 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](#)