



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 3/7/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 3/7, 2,429,720 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 2,117,862 (87.2%) doses have been administered.

Who to Vaccinate this Week

- **New:** Effective 3/11/21, K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and childcare workers are eligible to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments.
- **Updated:** Provider sites may request vaccine for health care workers, first responders, congregate care settings, home-based health care workers, those 65 years of age or older, those with 2+ certain medical conditions, those residing in low-income and affordable senior housing, childcare workers, and K-12 educators and staff.
- Sites should maintain wait lists of eligible individuals they can call if they have extra vaccine and schedule an appointment in order to administer by the end of the day to prevent wastage.

What to Know this Week

- **New *Authorization of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:*** The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine was granted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the FDA for administration on a single-dose schedule to people ≥ 18 years of age. It is administered as a 0.5 ml intramuscular injection. The EUA fact sheets for providers and recipients and other information about the Janssen vaccine can be found [here](#). In Massachusetts there was a very limited initial allocation of this vaccine from the federal government that was allocated to a select group of providers. It is not likely that additional doses will be available until later in March. Once doses become more widely available, information on which sites will have access to the Janssen vaccine will be shared.
- **New *Moderna COVID-19 vaccine vials:*** With the addition of new vial suppliers, a subset of the vials recently entering distribution may appear thicker and display a slight green tint as a result of the vial sterilization process during manufacturing. This tinting is strictly visual and has no impact on the vaccine. A range of vial colors under various lighting conditions may be encountered in the field and over time; vial tinting may fade naturally, resulting in a faint yellow color.
- **New *Updated Moderna COVID-19 vaccine labels:*** There are updated [Before Use Date](#) labels on the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine webpage.
- **Updated *Pfizer updated EUA:*** FDA issued an amendment to the [Pfizer EUA](#) dated 2/25/21, which included the following:
 - Frozen vials stored or transported at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) may be returned one time to the recommended storage condition of -80°C to -60°C (-112°F to -76°F). Total

cumulative time the vials are stored at -25°C to -15°C (-13°F to 5°F) should be tracked and should not exceed 2 weeks.

- Other changes: pregnancy risk summary updated with data from reproductive and developmental toxicity study in rats; new section 6.2 Post Authorization Experience (includes anaphylaxis and severe allergic reactions); and updated CDC link to anaphylaxis guidance.
- **Updated COVID-19 vaccine request process:** The [COVID-19 vaccine request process](#) was updated on 2/22/21. It will continue until supply is sufficient to allow providers to place their own orders through the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).
- **COVID-19 vaccine allocation:** The federal government is providing inadequate supplies to meet the demand of our provider community or our citizens. Therefore, the vaccine distribution process has been streamlined with first dose requests prioritized to:
 - The federal pharmacy program that supports onsite vaccination clinics at long term care facilities and congregate care programs. The skilled nursing facility portion of this program has ended. The congregate care part will end no later than 4/15;
 - Congregate care programs, including homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and state operated and financed group homes not covered by the federal pharmacy program and their vaccinating provider partners;
 - Community Health Centers who meet the administration threshold of 65%;
 - Providers listed on the state’s website: mass.gov/vaccine, offering vaccination appointments to all eligible residents (retail pharmacy, mass vaccination sites, regional collaborations, provider or community operated clinics);
 - Local Boards of Health vaccinating low income or affordable public or private senior housing properties or homebound individuals;
 - Local Boards of Health in identified disproportionately impacted communities; and
 - Health systems providing vaccine to their patient panels.

A major factor in determining a provider’s (except community health centers’) allocation is ability to maintain a threshold of 85% for vaccine usage. This is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of doses received by the number of doses administered. Another factor in determining a provider’s allocation is their ability to administer all doses received within 10 days of receipt.

- **Second doses:** DPH is committed to ensuring remaining sites receive the necessary quantity of 2nd doses to serve your patients to whom you have already provided vaccine. If you currently have vaccine on hand, please use those doses as 2nd doses and only request additional doses for the balance of your need.
- **MIIS reporting:** Provider sites must comply with the [MIIS Reporting Order for COVID Vaccine](#) to report vaccine administration data to the MIIS within 24 hours (not the 72 hours previously required). If you do not report doses administered to the MIIS, it will appear that you have more inventory than you may actually have on hand. This might jeopardize your next allocation.

Where to go when you have questions about COVID-19 vaccine

Important: Calls about vaccine viability, damage, or packing slip discrepancies must reach McKesson (for Moderna vaccine) or Pfizer (for Pfizer vaccine) the same day the shipment arrived at the office as documented by the carrier.

- **Pfizer vaccine shipment has a problem:**
 - Pfizer Customer Service: 800-666-7248, Email: cvgovernment@pfizer.com
- **Pfizer ancillary kit has a problem:**
 - McKesson Customer Service: 833-272-6634, Email: SNSSupport@McKesson.com
- **If there is a problem with Moderna Vaccine shipment:**
 - Phone: 833 272-6635 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. ET
 - Email (only send after hours): COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com
- **Moderna ancillary kit has a problem:**
 - McKesson Customer Service: 833-272-6634, Email: SNSSupport@McKesson.com
- **For clinical questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine** (<https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info>)
 - Call 1-800-232-4636 or email using the [CDC-Info web form](#)
- **Vaccine Unit** (dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us)
 - Enrollment into MCVP
 - Vaccine storage and handling and transfer
 - Vaccine shipments, inventory, and number of doses allocated
 - Vaccine wastage/expiration
- **MIIS** (miishelpdesk@mass.gov) Due to the volume of inquiries, it is taking 2-3 business days for the Help Desk to respond. Answers to most questions can be found at the [MIIS Resource Center](#).
 - MIIS registration/onboarding
 - How to log in to the MIIS and report vaccines to the MIIS
 - Running reports in the MIIS
 - Adding users/sites to the MIIS
- **COVID-19 email box** (COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov)
 - Who can get vaccine
 - Vaccine prioritization
 - Where and how to get vaccinated

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- CDC [COVID-19 vaccine provider training](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Live Q&A to supplement the MDPH [training modules](#). 3/22 from 1-2pm. Register here: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)
- Order COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards from the [Massachusetts Clearing House](#).
- Download Massachusetts [COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Outreach Materials](#)
- Visit www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineProviders for [vaccine provider FAQ](#); detailed [guidance](#) on vaccine management and administration; and CDC and FDA [resources](#) such as v-safe.
- [EUA fact sheets](#) for providers and caregivers, available in multiple languages.