



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 8/5/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 8/5, 4,379,665 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.

What to Know this Week

- **Reminder Ordering COVID-19 Vaccine:** As of 7/8/21, DPH is no longer limiting which sites can order COVID-19 vaccines. Any provider who would like to order COVID-19 vaccine must be registered with the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) and have a completed Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP) agreement. All providers receiving COVID-19 vaccine will order vaccine directly from the MIIS and comply with MCVP guidelines and the following requirements:
 - Report doses administered to the MIIS within 24hrs of administration
 - Administer all doses within 30 days of receipt
 - Order minimum quantities of COVID-19 vaccines (Note new lower ordering limits: 60 doses of Pfizer, 50 doses of Moderna, 25 doses of Johnson & Johnson)
 - Agree to [allowable vaccine wastage guidelines](#).

The Vaccine Unit will work with another site to transfer the doses instead of having that order fulfilled from the manufacturer/distributor. Only order doses that you will use within 30 days. Due to this change, it may take up to 2 to 3 business day before you get confirmation from the Vaccine Unit that the order is being fulfilled. If you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccine ordering please contact DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us

- **Reminder DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Website for Providers:** DPH has a [COVID-19 vaccine website for providers](#). Here you will find information about storage and handling, detailed guidance for healthcare providers and organizations, answers to frequently asked questions by providers, links to CDC and FDA resources, and other relevant information about vaccination efforts. DPH recommends checking the website frequently to stay up to date with the latest information.
- **Expiration Extension for Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine:** The FDA [authorized an extension](#) of the shelf life for the Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine from 4.5 months to 6 months (an additional 45 days). The decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 6 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36 – 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 – 8 degrees Celsius).
 - Visit <https://vaxcheck.inj/> to confirm the latest expiration dates of vaccine, including those currently available for administration throughout the U.S. This extension applies

to refrigerated vials of Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine that have been held in accordance with the manufacturer's storage conditions.

- COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized under an EUA do not have fixed expiration dates, and their expiration dates can be extended as we get more stability data. Always be sure to check the manufacturers' websites to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for COVID-19 vaccines you have on hand.
- Inventories in the MIIS have been updated with the new expiration dates.
- **Summary of ACIP Meeting on COVID-19 Vaccines:** On 7/22/21, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to review data on reports of the rare occurrence of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) following receipt of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. The Committee also discussed a potential recommendation for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised people. Review the [meeting summary](#) from the Immunization Action Coalition.
 - ACIP concluded that the benefits of Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine used according to current recommendations far outweigh the rare potential risks of GBS or thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS).
 - ACIP will continue to assess evidence for the safety, efficacy, and benefit of providing an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised people. In the interim, fully vaccinated immunocompromised people should continue to follow the standard recommendations for mask wearing, social distancing, and avoiding large crowds that generally apply to unvaccinated people.
 - Additional resources:
 - [CDC Statement on GBS Associated with Janssen COVID Vaccine](#)
 - [FDA J&J EUA Fact Sheet for Providers](#)
 - [FDA J&J EUA Fact Sheet for Caregivers and Recipients](#)
 - [GBS FAQ - Public Health Communication Collaborative](#)
- **CDC Health Advisory – Vaccination to Prevent COVID-19 Outbreaks with Current and Emergent Variants:** The CDC issued this [Health Alert Network Health Advisory](#) to notify public health practitioners and clinicians about the urgent need to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage across the United States to prevent surges in new infections that could increase COVID-19 related morbidity and mortality, overwhelm healthcare capacity, and widen existing COVID-19-related health disparities.
- **Transporting COVID-19 Vaccines:** Providers should follow the [Emergency Pack-Out Guidance](#) when transferring COVID-19 Vaccine and ensure that they are using a digital data logger. Providers should also make sure that the ancillary kits are included in the transfer.

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** [Animation that shows how the mRNA vaccine works:](#) A new resource from the Vaccine Education Center of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center. The animation is available on the Vaccine Makers Project YouTube Channel. It can also be accessed from [vaccine.chop.edu](#) and on [COVIDVaccineAnswers.org](#).
- **New** CDC MMWRs
 - 7/30/2021: [Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 Infections, Including COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections, Associated with Large Public Gatherings — Barnstable County, Massachusetts, July 2021 | MMWR](#)

- 7/30/2021: [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety in Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years — United States, December 14, 2020–July 16, 2021 | MMWR](#)
- 7/30/2021: [Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel Working in Long-Term Care Facilities, by Job Category, National Healthcare Safety Network — United States, March 2021 | MMWR](#)
- [Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#): Find updated information from the CDC on select adverse events, including GBS, myocarditis, TTS, death, and anaphylaxis.
- 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.
- Recorded webinars for healthcare providers administering COVID-19 vaccines.
 - CDC’s [What Healthcare Providers Need to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines and Becoming a Vaccination Provider](#) (30 minutes)
 - Public Health Communications Collaborative's [COVID-19 Vaccination and Children: Answering Parents’ Questions](#) (1 hour)