



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 3/12/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 3/11, 2,781,490 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 2,353,408 doses (84.6%) have been administered.

Who to Vaccinate this Week

- **Updated:** Effective 3/11/21, K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and childcare workers are eligible to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments. Review information for this group at [COVID-19 vaccinations for K-12 educators, child care workers and school staff | Mass.gov](#).
- 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 they can administer by the end of the day to prevent wastage.

What to Know this Week

- **New *Scheduling second doses:*** Please review [this document](#) for key messages about scheduling second doses of Pfizer and Moderna. It includes information about scheduling second doses at mass vaccination sites and pharmacies when the first dose was administered at another site.
- **Updated *Availability of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:*** In Massachusetts there was a very limited initial allocation of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) 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. The Janssen EUA fact sheets for providers and recipients and other information about the Janssen vaccine can be found [here](#).
- **New *CDC materials for the Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen vaccines.*** These materials account for the new Janssen vaccine, new clinical considerations, and the update allowing the Pfizer vaccine to be stored in the freezer for up to two weeks.
 - Pfizer: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Information | CDC](#)
 - Standing Orders (updated)
 - Preparation and Administration Summary (updated)
 - Storage and Handling Summary (updated)
 - BUD labels (updated)
 - Moderna: [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Information | CDC](#)

- Standing Orders (updated)
- Preparation and Administration Summary (updated)
- Transporting Vaccine for Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations (new)
- BUD labels (updated)
- Janssen: [Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Information | CDC](#)
 - Standing Orders (new)
 - Preparation and Administration Summary (new)
 - Storage and Handling Summary (updated)
- **New CDC training modules:** The Pfizer and Moderna training modules have been updated and the Janssen training module is now live: [COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules \(cdc.gov\)](#).
- **New CDC Prevaccination Checklist:** This [screening form](#) has been updated and should be used for all three currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines.
- **New CDC Clinical Considerations:** Below is a summary of recent changes to the [CDC Clinical Considerations](#):
 - Clinical considerations added for use of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Updated recommendations for fully vaccinated people who subsequently develop COVID-19.
 - Updated recommendations related to COVID-19 vaccination timing for immunocompromised people.
 - Updated contraindications and precautions to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Updated information on interpretation of SARS-CoV-2 antibody test results after vaccination.
- **New CDC Implementation Considerations:** Below is a summary of recent changes to the [CDC Implementation Considerations](#):
 - Addition of considerations for location accessibility, communicating vaccine information, and scheduling appointments for certain populations.
 - Updates to considerations for vaccination in congregate living settings.
 - Updates on implementation and dosing considerations for Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen COVID-19 vaccines.
- **New Pfizer thermal shippers:** Pfizer thermal shippers will begin to ship in newly designed shippers to make it easier to replace dry ice and reduce the risk of temperature excursions. The new shipper is recognized by its “racing stripe” exterior of orange and blue and its aluminum frame.
- **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.

- **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.

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 and Janssen 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
- **Moderna or Janssen vaccine shipment has a problem:**
 - Phone: 833-272-6635 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. ET
 - Email (only send after hours): COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com
- **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 MCVF
 - 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

- **New** Revised [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#) for the public
- **New** [FAQ](#) and [fliers](#) for people who are 65 and older or who have 2+ certain medical conditions
- 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 in English and Spanish 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.