



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 4/29/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 4/29, 2,479,914 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 3,518,215 have received one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

Who to Vaccinate this Week

- Anyone age 16 and older who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts is 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 Resuming use of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:** Effective 4/23/21, CDC and FDA recommend that use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine resume in the U.S. However, women younger than 50 years old should be made aware of a rare risk of blood clots with low platelets following vaccination and the availability of other COVID-19 vaccines where this risk has not been observed. Read the [CDC/FDA statement](#).
 - Revised [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers](#)
 - Revised [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)
- **New Staff training:** All staff supporting COVID-19 vaccination efforts should receive ongoing training as COVID-19 vaccine recommendations evolve.
 - Review and complete training and core competencies by [professional qualification](#).
 - For healthcare professionals new to vaccination, [COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs and Reference Materials for Healthcare Professionals](#) provides a comprehensive list of suggested training and reference materials.
 - For more immunization resources, see [Resources for Health Care Providers](#) and [Immunization Education and Training](#).
- **New Moderna vials:** Moderna vaccine will be available in two different vials by early May – the current maximum 11-dose vial and a new maximum 15-dose vial. The vial will remain the same size but will be filled to the higher volume. A new NDC has been issued for the larger volume Moderna vial, which has been authorized for a range of 13-15 doses in the updated Moderna [EUA factsheet for healthcare providers](#). During May, vaccine providers will receive allocations that include both Moderna vaccine vials, with the smaller maximum 11-dose vials being phased out. It will not always be possible to extract the 15th dose and providers should expect to withdraw 13-15 doses from each vial. Additional materials to support the Moderna EUA changes can be found [here](#).
 - Each dose must contain 0.5mL of vaccine.

- If the vaccine remaining in the vial is not a complete 0.5mL dose, discard the vial and the residual vaccine in a sharps container, regardless of the number of doses withdrawn.
 - Do NOT save vials to combine residual vaccine from more than one vial to get a complete dose.
 - An unextracted 15th dose does NOT count as waste.
 - A combination of low dead-volume and non-low dead-volume syringes and needles may be required to consistently extract 11 and 15 doses from the vials.
 - Ancillary kits for Moderna vaccine will be reconfigured to extract a maximum of 14 doses per vial, plus a 5% surplus to account for damage or wastage.
 - Providers should reliably extract 10 doses from the current volume vial and plan to extract 14 doses from the new larger volume vial using the ancillary supplies provided.
- **New CDC COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals:** The [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals](#) page has been updated and reorganized. Topics include scheduling, storage and handling, vaccine administration, vaccination documentation, and vaccine safety and efficacy. There is also an FAQ list dedicated to each COVID-19 vaccine product, which are available through each product webpage: [Pfizer-BioNTech](#), [Moderna](#), and [Janssen/J&J Vaccine](#).
 - **Consent for vaccination for minors younger than 18:** Vaccine providers are responsible for obtaining appropriate consent from patients before administering vaccines. For minors younger than 18 years of age, consent is obtained from a legally authorized representative on behalf of the child (usually a parent or guardian) by completing a written consent form that the minor can bring to their vaccination appointment. The parent or guardian does not need to go with the minor to their vaccination appointment to give consent. Currently, people younger than 18 can only get the Pfizer vaccine.
 - For more information, including copies of the consent form in multiple languages, see [COVID-19 vaccinations for people under age 18 | Mass.gov](#).
 - **Patient rights regarding access to COVID-19 vaccine:** Across the U.S., some immigrants are facing documentation requests prior to COVID-19 vaccination, and individuals are being inappropriately billed for COVID-19 vaccine fees. HRSA developed fact sheets to help patients and providers better understand their rights and responsibilities regarding [access to COVID-19 vaccines](#). COVID-19 vaccines are free to all individuals. Please ensure that all signage and other messaging on site makes it clear that an ID and insurance card are not required for vaccination.
 - Patient Fact Sheet ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
 - Provider Fact Sheet ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
 - **Withdraw only the authorized number of doses from a vial of COVID-19 vaccine:** This is indicated in the vaccine-specific EUA provider fact sheet. CDC will update its guidance if the EUA and ancillary supply kits support additional doses per vial in the future. Additional guidance:
 - Never combine or “pool” partial doses from 2 or more vials to obtain one full dose.
 - Withdraw only the number of doses [authorized](#) for the specific vaccine.
 - Discard vaccine vial and remaining vaccine in sharps container if the amount of vaccine left in the vial is not a full dose, or you have withdrawn the maximum number of doses authorized for that vaccine.
 - **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.
- **Revised COVID-19 Vaccine Management Standard Operating Procedure Template & Redistribution Guidance:** Revised documents are posted on the [mass.gov provider page](#).
- **Providers 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.
- **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) Prevacination 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 and the Prevacination Checklist 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](#)

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** MDPH COVID 19 Vaccination Live Q&A Webinar: May 24, 2021 1:00 PM Register [here](#).
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for MCVP Providers](#)
- Clinical information and administration resources can be found for each vaccine on their own CDC product webpage: [Pfizer](#), [Moderna](#), and [Janssen/J&J](#).
- CDC is offering 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](#)
- [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.](#)