



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 5/18/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 5/18, 3,243,160 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 3,966,363 have received at least one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

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

- **New ACIP Interim Recommendations for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in Adolescents Ages 12–15 years:** According to data provided to FDA and ACIP and published in the [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) on 5/14/21, the estimated efficacy of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was 100% in preventing symptomatic, laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in adolescents ages 12–15. The immune response of adolescents in this age group was similar to that observed in people ages 16–25 years. Among vaccine recipients ages 12–15 years, reactogenicity symptoms during the 7 days after vaccination were frequent (90.9% of vaccine recipients reported any local reaction and 90.7% reported any systemic reaction) and mostly mild to moderate. Pain at the injection site was the most common local reaction. Systemic adverse reactions (e.g., fever, fatigue, headache, muscle pain) were more commonly reported after the second dose than after the first dose. The local and systemic reactions were similar to those reported in persons aged ≥ 16 years. No specific safety concerns were identified.
 - See the updated EUA fact sheets for [providers](#) and [recipient and caregivers](#)
- **New AAP Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccination for Children ages 12 and Older and Co-administration with Routine Immunizations:** The American Academy of Pediatrics [policy statement](#) recommends the following: 1) COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications, 2) any COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the FDA, recommended by the CDC, and appropriate by age and health status can be used, and 3) supports **co-administration of COVID-19 vaccine with routine immunizations** in order to catch children up on any missed vaccines. Co-administration is also supported in the CDC Clinical Considerations (see below).
- **New CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Considerations:** Key updates to the [Clinical Considerations](#) include:
 - Updated information for authorized age groups to include vaccination of adolescents ages 12–15 years with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Updated information on co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines **may now be administered without regard to**

- timing.** This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as co-administration within 14 days.

 - A new section on persons with a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome added to considerations for vaccination of people with certain underlying medical conditions.
 - Updated recommendation for timing of COVID-19 vaccine administration in persons with a history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia.
 - Updated information on vaccination of children and adolescents.
- **Reminder *Consent for Vaccination for People 12-17 Years of Age:*** 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.
 - For more information, including copies of the consent form in multiple languages, see [COVID-19 vaccinations for people under age 18](#). Please note that health care providers can establish their own consent policies in consultation with their legal counsel.
 - Individuals 12-15 years old can register for an appointment at VaccineSignUp.mass.gov
- **New *CDC Adolescent COVID-19 Vaccination Information & Resources for Healthcare and Vaccine Providers (HCP):***
 - [Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#) provides materials to help healthcare providers give parents clear and accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines. The toolkit includes answers to common questions, an explanation of how mRNA vaccines work, and printable materials to give to parents.
 - [FAQs](#) have been posted on the Pfizer product page for HCP with information about consent, prescreening questions, and other issues related to the vaccination of minors.
 - HCP can customize and send [this sample letter](#) to encourage their patients to get a COVID-19 vaccine. It includes the new recommendation that everyone aged 12 and up get a COVID-19 vaccination.
 - The [Vaccine Recipient Education](#) page has been updated to include resources about COVID-19 vaccination for adolescents.
 - View the recorded webinar: [What Clinicians Need to Know About Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccination of Adolescents](#).
 - Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens](#). Includes standing orders.
 - See additional information for parents and adolescents in the **Resources & Learning Opportunities** section below.
- **New *Reports of Myocarditis Occurring After COVID-19 Vaccination:*** The [European Medicines Agency](#) recently requested data on reports of myocarditis and pericarditis after vaccination. CDC is aware of these reports, which are rare, and has been closely monitoring myocarditis/pericarditis in multiple safety systems, including the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) and the [Vaccine Safety Datalink \(VSD\)](#). To date, there has not been a safety signal identified in either VAERS or VSD. CDC will continue to evaluate reports of myocarditis/pericarditis occurring after COVID-19 vaccination and will share more information as it becomes available. Healthcare providers should consider myocarditis in an evaluation of chest pain after vaccination and [report all cases to VAERS](#). CDC continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for people 12 years and older.

- Myocarditis is the inflammation of the heart muscle and pericarditis is the inflammation of the lining outside the heart. In both cases, the body's immune system is causing inflammation in response to an infection or some other trigger. While myocarditis can be serious, it is frequently mild and self-limited. Symptoms can include abnormal heart rhythms, shortness of breath, or chest pain.
- Ordering COVID-19 Vaccine Through the MIIS:** Providers will be able to order COVID-19 vaccine directly from the MIIS as needed, within certain limits. Providers must use requested vaccine within 10 days and must deplete existing inventory before an additional order will be approved. Providers whose inventory on-hand exceeds 50% of their weekly allocation amount will not be able to order additional vaccine. This direct ordering process will allow providers more flexibility in identifying their vaccine needs and in planning their order timing. Existing providers will be transitioned to this new process within the next couple weeks. Review the [ordering guidance](#) for more information.

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- New** COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Parents and Adolescents
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#) provides information about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines for adolescents aged 12 and older and what to expect during and after vaccination.
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines for Preteens and Teens](#) is a printable fact sheet for parents that explains the benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine for their children, safety information, and what to expect during and after vaccination.
 - Two [new FAQs](#) have been posted to address questions about the safety and benefits of COVID-19 vaccination for adolescents aged 12 and older.
 - A woman's menstrual cycle *cannot* be affected by being near someone who received a COVID-19 vaccine. This [question and answer](#) explains why.
 - It is safe for people who would like to have a baby one day to get a COVID-19 vaccine. This [question and answer](#) explains why.
 - [Key Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines](#) and [About COVID-19 Vaccines](#) now include the recommendation that adolescents aged 12 and older get vaccinated.
 - The web page [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Specific Groups](#) has been updated to help the public find information about vaccination for adolescents.
 - This [checklist](#) can help parents as they prepare for their child's COVID-19 vaccination.
- New** MIIS Resources Available
 - [MIIS & Vaccine Accountability](#): outlines the importance of accounting for your vaccine through the MIIS and provides tools to assist you in managing your inventory.
 - [Transferring Vaccine through MIIS Video](#): walks through how to transfer and accept transfers through the MIIS.
 - [How to Use the Inventory Decrementing Tool Video](#): explains what the tool does and how to use it. It also describes the importance of reconciliation of your inventory.
 - [Using the HL7 Admin Console Video](#): learn how to use the HL7 Admin Console to monitor your organizations HL7 messages to ensure your data is transmitting successfully and it has high data quality.
 - Visit the [MIIS Resource Center](#) for more training videos, guides and more.
- Reminder** MDPH COVID 19 Vaccination Live Q&A Webinar: May 24, 2021 1:00 PM Register [here](#).