



# MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

## BULLETIN

### What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 5/27/21

#### Latest Numbers

- As of 5/27, 3,558,197 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 4,133,946 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 Changes to Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Storage:** Undiluted, thawed Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine vials can be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C - 8°C **for up to 1 month.**
  - The vials must be undiluted to remain at 2°C - 8°C for 1 month.
  - Step down storage & handling for Pfizer COVID vaccines is now as follows:
    - All Pfizer configurations are shipped ultra-cold.
    - Ultra-cold (-70°C):** May be stored in ULT freezer until the expiration date, or temporarily in the shipper with regular dry ice replenishment.
    - Frozen (-20°C):** Undiluted vials may remain frozen at -20°C for up to 2 weeks.
    - Refrigerated (2-8°C):** Undiluted vials may remain at 2°C - 8°C for 1 month.
  - Total storage time for Pfizer in freezer and refrigerator combined should not exceed 45 days.
- New Pfizer vaccine will be available in a new 450-dose configuration:** As of May 28, providers will be able to order the 1,170-dose and 450-dose product configurations.

<b>Pfizer 450 (New)</b>	<b>NDC 59267-1000-03</b>	<b>75 Multidose vials (3 trays of 25 vials each)</b>
Pfizer 1,170	NDC 59267-1000-02	195 1tdose vials

- Vials will be shipped in the same container as the 1,170-dose orders and will include the same Controlant temperature monitor.
- The newly extended refrigerator storage temperatures will decrease the need for dry ice. **There will be no dry ice replenishment for the 450-dose pack.**
- Return shippers and Controlant monitors within 10 days.
- New ancillary kits have been created to support the 450-dose minimum order size. The adult ancillary kits contain the same ratio of 1" to 1.5" needles as the 1,170 kit. The pediatric ancillary kit contains only 1" needles. Other supplies in the kit remain the same.

- **Reminder *Moderna vials*:** Moderna vaccine is now available in two different vials – the 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](#). The smaller maximum 11-dose vials being phased out. It will not always be possible to extract the 15<sup>th</sup> dose; providers should expect to withdraw 13-15 doses from a vial.
  - [Talking points about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Amendments](#)
  - [FAQ about the EUA Amendments](#)
  - [Images of the new Moderna cartons and vial labels](#)
  - [Wastage Reporting Table](#)
- **New Updated Inventory Requirements for Primary Care Providers and Community Health Centers:** Primary Care Providers (internal medicine, family practice, pediatric, and multi-specialty) and Community Health Centers must use COVID-19 vaccines **within 4 weeks** of receipt and must deplete existing inventory before an additional order is approved. Previously, all providers needed to administer vaccines within 10 days of receipt. This requirement has changed due to the increased availability of vaccines and a better understanding of logistical issues. All other providers must administer vaccines within 10 days of receipt. Review the [ordering guidance](#) for more information.
- **New Encouraging vaccination with all your patients:** Healthcare providers are the most trusted resource for patients in making health decisions. Your strong recommendation to get a COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most important factors in your patients’ decision to accept vaccination.
  - Use CDC’s [sample letter to patients to encourage COVID-19 vaccination](#) to communicate with all your patients.
  - Strongly recommend COVID-19 vaccine at **every patient** visit.
  - See [COVID-19 Vaccination Tips for Providers: Talking to Patients | Mass.gov](#) for help talking with your patients about COVID-19 vaccines.
  - If COVID-19 vaccines are not available at your office, offer to help them make an appointment. Use [VaxFinder.mass.gov](#) with over 900 pharmacies, health care providers, and other community locations listed across the Commonwealth. Users can also find information about no wait, walk-up appointments at select locations, accessibility information, and can plan for their appointment using the MBTA trip planner tool.
- **New MIIS reports to identify patient immunization status:**
  - The [MIIS Coverage Reports](#) allow each provider site to evaluate the immunization coverage for its practice. Check the “Include patient listing tables” box to ensure the output includes patient information. We recommend using the Custom Coverage report to research COVID-19 coverage rates.
  - The [MIIS Reminder/Recall Reports](#) provide a list of patients that are due or overdue for a recommended vaccine, based on criteria specified by the user. **Reminders** are created for patients that will soon be due for a particular immunization and **Recalls** are created for patients that are currently overdue for a particular immunization.
- **New Monitor COVID-19 vaccine expiration and beyond use dates:** As the pace of COVID-19 vaccination slows down, providers may have more vaccine in inventory.
  - Rotate stock so that the oldest vaccine is used first.
  - Use the [Vaccine Expiration Date Tracking Tool](#).
  - Use [Beyond-use Date in Vial or Syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

- Arrange to transfer vaccine that you will not be able to use before the expiration date. Use these resources to manage COVID-19 vaccine transfers:
  - MDPH [Redistribution Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
  - USP [Transporting COVID-19 Vaccines Off-Site](#)
  - MIIS [Transferring Vaccine through MIIS Video](#)
  - MIIS [How to Use the Inventory Decrementing Tool Video](#)
- **New Updated CDC materials:** The following materials have been updated to reflect the latest ACIP recommendation to administer COVID-19 vaccine to adolescents aged 12 to 15 years.
  - Preparation and Administration Summary: [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#)
  - Standing Orders: [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#)
  - [Interim Clinical Considerations](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide](#)
  - [Prevaccination Checklist](#)
- **Reminder COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may 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. It is unknown whether reactogenicity of COVID-19 vaccine is increased with co-administration. When deciding whether to co-administer other vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine, consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines, their risk of vaccine-preventable disease (e.g., during an outbreak or occupational exposures), and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.
- **New Encourage parents and guardians to enroll their adolescents in v-safe:** [V-safe after vaccination health checker](#) is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after COVID-19 vaccination. Through v-safe, participants can quickly tell CDC if they have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **New Preregistration system closing:** The Commonwealth's [vaccine preregistration system](#) is closing at the end of May. All remaining people who preregistered will be given an opportunity to book before the system closes. [Vaxfinder.mass.gov](#) will remain available.
- **ACIP Interim Recommendations for Use of Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine in Adolescents Ages 12–15:** According to data published in the [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#), the estimated efficacy of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was 100% in preventing symptomatic, laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in adolescents ages 12–15. 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](#).
- **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.
- **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 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.
- **Reports of Myocarditis Occurring After COVID-19 Vaccination:** CDC has been closely monitoring myocarditis/pericarditis in multiple safety systems. To date, there has not been a safety signal identified. CDC will continue to evaluate reports of myocarditis/pericarditis occurring after COVID-19 vaccination. 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.

### Resources & Learning Opportunities

- Download DPH [youth-related graphics](#) for your messaging on topics such as: how teens can get the COVID-19 vaccine; ingredients in the vaccine; how teens can protect themselves during COVID-19, and how to cope with COVID-19 stress.
- CDC [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)
  - [Pediatric Healthcare Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#)
  - [FAQs](#) for providers
  - [Vaccine Recipient Education](#)
  - 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.
- Visit the [MIIS Resource Center](#) for more training videos, guides and more
  - [MIIS & Vaccine Accountability](#)
  - [Using the HL7 Admin Console Video](#)