



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 6/10/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 6/9, 3,892,971 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 4,282,514 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 Updated Interim Clinical Considerations:** Updates to [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations](#) made 6/1/2021 include:
 - Information on cases of myocarditis and pericarditis occurring after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, particularly in adolescents and young adults.
 - Information on the efficacy of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents ages 12–15 years in patient counseling.
 - Updated data on local and systemic symptoms following vaccination with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in patient counseling section.
 - Updated list of ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines (i.e., lack of metals) in Appendix C.
- **New Anatomical Landmarks for Administering Intramuscular Injections in the Arm:** The [May 2021 column](#) of *Technically Speaking*, the Immunization Action Coalition's monthly column, discusses the anatomical landmarks for administering intramuscular injections in the arm.
- **New Viewing Patient Vaccination Records Reported to the MIIS:** It is important for health care providers to identify unvaccinated patients in their practice to target outreach. Providers can view patient vaccinations reported to the MIIS by logging into the MIIS user interface or via bidirectional data connection between the MIIS and their EHR system. This gives providers insight into vaccinations that have been administered by other health care providers in the state.
 - If your site has a bidirectional data connection with the MIIS, immunizations from the MIIS will flow into your EHR. Please contact your EHR if assistance is needed viewing the immunization records.
 - If your site does not have a bidirectional data connection with the MIIS but you would like to set one up, please contact your EHR to see if they are capable of QBP. If your EHR is capable, please submit a quick onboarding request directly in the MIIS application. The following mini guide provides step by step instructions for submitting an onboarding request: [Onboarding Request Mini Guide](#). The [QBP \(bidirectional\)](#)

[Onboarding Toolkit](#) provides links to all of the technical information needed to set up a QBP connection. Feel free to share with your EHR vendor and/or technical contact.

- If you do not have an EHR with bidirectional capability, you may view patient immunization directly in the MIIS application through an easy search. The MIIS offers a training video and a mini guide that provides step by step instructions for viewing patient immunization records directly in the MIIS: [MIIS Look Up A Patient Training Video \(<5 minutes\)](#), [Search and Create Immunization Records](#).
- **Updated *Undiluted, thawed Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine vials can be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C - 8°C for up to 1 month:***
 - The temperature ranges for unopened, non-punctured vials of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are now as follows:
 - -80°C to -60°C (Ultra Cold Storage): until the expiration date
 - -90°C to -60°C (Thermal Shipping Container): 30 days, if replenished with dry ice upon receipt and every 5 days (Note: thermal shippers that carry 450 doses trays must not be used as temporary storage.)
 - -25°C to -15°C (Freezer): up to 2 weeks
 - 2°C to 8°C (Refrigerator): up to 1 month (31 days)
 - Additional storage & handling guidance for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines:
 - All Pfizer configurations are shipped ultra-cold.
 - Thermal shippers that carry 450 doses trays must not be used as temporary storage.
 - Pfizer Step Down Storage and Handling: Once vaccine has been exposed to a warmer temperature, it must not be placed back to a colder temperature range. For example, if unopened vaccine is being kept between -25°C to -15°C, it should not go back to ultra-cold temperatures, instead the provider can keep unopened vaccine at -25°C to -15°C for a total of 2 weeks and then step down to refrigerator. The unopened vaccine can stay in the refrigerator for 1 month.
 - Total storage time in freezer and refrigerator should not exceed 45 days.
 - Unopened vaccine cannot be used after the product expiration date. The expiration date is on the packaging.
 - Opened vaccine must be used within 6 hours of puncturing the vial.
- ***Take every opportunity to vaccinate:*** Providers should not miss any opportunities to vaccinate every eligible person who presents at a vaccination site, even if it means puncturing a multidose vial to administer vaccine without having enough people available to receive each dose. To limit vaccine wastage to no more than 5% waste overall:
 - Consider establishing and promoting standing vaccination days or half-days to increase likelihood of larger numbers of people presenting for vaccination on the same day.
 - Vaccinate family members or friends who accompany patients to medical visits even if they are not established patients at the vaccinating practice.
 - Outreach to employers or other community partners that have a large membership or network to arrange vaccination events.
 - Contact additional persons (i.e., personal contacts of persons being vaccinated) to use as many vaccine doses as possible.

- **Some lots of Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J/Janssen vaccines are set to expire:** To minimize the number of expired doses and manage expired doses correctly:
 - Monitor expiration dates weekly and rotate stock so that the oldest vaccine is used first.
 - As the expiration draws closer, check posted manufacturer information for the most up to date expiration/extension information for vaccine lots.
 - Remove expired vaccine from the storage unit **immediately**. Do not give staff opportunity to administer expired vaccine.
 - Dispose of the vial with any remaining vaccine and packaging as medical waste.
 - Do NOT return vaccine in the thermal shipping container.
 - Use the [Vaccine Expiration Date Tracking Tool](#) to record expiration dates.
 - Use the [Beyond-use Date in Vial or Syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](#) handling toolkit.
 - 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](#)
- **Avoid COVID-19 vaccine administration errors:** Interim recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine administration errors differ from ACIP's general best practice guidelines. Review [vaccine administration errors and deviations](#) for COVID-19 vaccines to learn about the interim recommendation for each type of error. For all vaccine administration errors:
 - Inform the recipient of the vaccine administration error.
 - Report all doses administered, including doses administered incorrectly (wrong age, wrong dose, wrong route, wrong schedule, etc.), to the MIIS.
 - Providers must report all COVID-19 vaccine administration errors, even those not associated with an adverse event, to [VAERS](#).
 - Determine how the error occurred and take steps to prevent it from happening again.
- **CDC asks states to focus on vaccine breakthrough cases with severe disease resulting in hospitalization or death:** Use the [DPH case report form](#) to report only vaccine breakthrough COVID-19 cases with severe disease resulting in hospitalization or death. Vaccine breakthrough disease cases are defined below.
 - Persons diagnosed with COVID-19 with a disease onset or earliest positive laboratory result date (whichever is earlier) more than 2 weeks after receiving a complete vaccine series. A complete vaccine series defined as having received all recommended doses of an FDA-emergency use authorized or WHO-emergency use listed vaccine.
 - Persons who have had a positive COVID-19 test within the last 45 days are excluded.
 - Submit completed forms to the DPH confidential fax line at 617-983-6220. Direct questions to the DPH Division of Epidemiology's 24/7 line at 617-983-6800.
- **Providers can order Pfizer COVID vaccine in 1,170-dose and 450-dose product configurations:**
 - Pfizer 450 (New): NDC 59267-1000-03, 75 multidose vials (3 trays of 25 vials each)
 - Pfizer 1,170: NDC 59267-1000-02, 195 multidose vials
 - There will be no dry ice replenishment for the 450-dose pack.
 - Return shippers and Controlant monitors within 10 days.

- **Moderna vials:** Moderna vaccine is now available in the maximum 11-dose vial and a new maximum 15-dose vial. The vial is same size but will be filled to the higher volume. The smaller maximum 11-dose vials being phased out. It will not always be possible to extract the 15th dose; providers should expect to withdraw 13-15 doses from a vial. Review [CDC materials to support the Moderna EUA changes](#).
- **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 deplete existing inventory before an additional order is approved. All other providers must administer vaccines within 10 days of receipt. Review the [ordering guidance](#) for more information.
- **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.

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** Helpful CDC documents have been updated:
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine, Administration Errors and Deviations](#), updated 5/28/21
 - [Summary Document for Interim Clinical Considerations](#), updated 5/26/21
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#), updated 5/20/21
- **New** MMWR: 4 June 2021. [Hospitalization of Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1, 2020–April 24, 2021](#).
- **New** MMWR: 28 May 2021. [COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections Reported to CDC — United States, January 1–April 30, 2021](#).
- **New** Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, [May Newsletter](#) (news, resources, and video series with testimonials from young adults)
- **Reminder** Visit the [MIIS Resource Center](#) for training videos, guides, and more.
 - [MIIS Coverage Reports](#) allow sites to evaluate the immunization coverage for its practice. Check the “Include patient listing tables” box to include patient information. Use the Custom Coverage report to research COVID-19 coverage rates.
 - [MIIS Reminder/Recall Reports](#) provide a list of patients that are due or overdue for a specific vaccine, based on criteria specified by the user.
- 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.