



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 6/3/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 6/3, 3,716,710 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 4,209,713 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** *Some lots of Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J/Janssen vaccines are set to expire:* In order 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](#)
- **New** *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.
- **New *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.
 - Report the error to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) unless otherwise indicated in the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#). 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 implement strategies to prevent it from happening again. Strategies to prevent vaccination errors can be found in the "[Vaccine Administration](#)" chapter of *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* (Pink Book). Additional resources can be found on CDC's [vaccine administration](#) web page, including a job aid for preventing errors.
- **New *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.
- **Updated *Reports of myocarditis occurring after COVID-19 vaccination:*** CDC continues to monitor cases of myocarditis and pericarditis that have been reported in the U.S. after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination. These reports are rare given the number of vaccine doses administered. CDC continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 12 years of age and older, given the greater risk of COVID-19 illness and related, possibly severe complications.
 - CDC Clinical Considerations: [Myocarditis and Pericarditis after Receipt of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Among Adolescents and Young Adults](#)
 - Report all cases of myocarditis and pericarditis post COVID-19 vaccination to [VAERS](#).
 - For follow-up of patients with myocarditis, consult the recommendations from the [American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology](#).
 - What you need to know: [information for patients and the public](#).

- **Undiluted, thawed Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine vials can be stored in the refrigerator at 2°C - 8°C for up to 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 should not exceed 45 days.

- **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.
 - [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](#)
- **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.
- **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](#)
- **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.
- **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.

- **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:** A consent form in multiple languages is available at [COVID-19 vaccinations for people under age 18](#). Health care providers can establish their own consent policies in consultation with their legal counsel.

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New [COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series](#):** “Ensuring Vaccine Safety in the United States: A Primer for Healthcare Workers” reviews vaccine safety so that healthcare professionals can educate their patients and answer any questions they might have. Each webinar is 15 minutes and offers Continuing Education (CE).
- **New CDC COCA webinar:** [Underlying Medical Conditions and Severe COVID-19: Evidence-based Information for Healthcare Providers](#). Access the slide set under "Call Materials." Free CEs.
- 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 training videos, guides, and more
 - [MIIS & Vaccine Accountability](#)
 - [Using the HL7 Admin Console Video](#)
 - [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.