



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 7/23/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 7/23, 4,321,931 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

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 CDC and FDA Statements on Guillain-Barré Syndrome Following Vaccination with the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine:** [CDC](#) and [FDA](#) are monitoring reports of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) in people who have received the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.
 - Most people fully recover from GBS, but some have permanent nerve damage.
 - After 12.8 million J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine doses administered, there have been around 100 preliminary reports of GBS identified in VAERS. These cases have largely been reported about 2 weeks after vaccination and mostly in men, many 50 years and older.
 - Available data do not show a similar pattern with mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna).
 - CDC will continue to monitor for and evaluate reports of GBS occurring after COVID-19 vaccination and will share more information as it becomes available.
 - Additional resources:
 - [CDC Statement on GBS Associated with Janssen COVID Vaccine](#)
 - [FDA J&J EUA Fact Sheet for Providers](#)
 - [FDA J&J EUA Fact Sheet for Caregivers and Recipients](#)
 - [GBS FAQ - Public Health Communication Collaborative](#)
- **New Ordering COVID-19 Vaccine in Smaller Increments:** COVID-19 vaccine orders are currently being filled through transfers, using inventory already in state. As a result, as of 7/26/21, providers will be able to order COVID-19 vaccines in smaller increments. Providers should continue to place their orders in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) as usual. Be aware that the Vaccine Unit will work with another site to transfer the doses instead of having that order fulfilled from the manufacturer/distributor. Only order doses that you will use within 30 days. Please note the new minimum order quantities:
 - Moderna – 50 doses (5 vials)
 - Pfizer – 60 doses (10 vials)

- Janssen – 25 doses (5 vials)
- **Reminder Requirements for Providers Ordering COVID-19 Vaccine:** As of 7/8/21, DPH is no longer limiting which sites can order COVID-19 vaccines. Any provider who would like to order COVID-19 vaccine must be registered with the MIIS and have a completed Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP) agreement. All providers receiving COVID-19 vaccine will order vaccine directly from the MIIS and comply with MCVP guidelines and the following requirements:
 - Report doses administered to the MIIS within 24hrs of administration
 - Administer all doses within 30 days of receipt
 - Agree to [allowable vaccine wastage guidelines](#).
- **Donating Vaccines Internationally:** As a COVID-19 provider, you cannot transfer or donate COVID-19 vaccines allocated to you outside of the United States. Any international transfer or donation of COVID-19 vaccines must be undertaken by the federal government. Providers with questions regarding donating vaccine internationally should contact CDC’s Distribution and Federal Programs functional box at eoevent551@cdc.gov.
- **Prevaccination Screening Form and Standing Orders Updated 7/6/21:**
 - [Prevaccination Screening Form](#)
 - [Pfizer Standing Orders](#)
 - [Moderna Standing Orders](#)
- **CDC Guidance for Child Care and Schools:** The following were updated on 7/9/21:
 - [COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs](#)
 - [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- **ID and Insurance Not Required to Receive COVID-19 Vaccine:** Vaccination sites should ensure that all signage and other messaging on site makes it clear that an ID and insurance card are not required for vaccination, the vaccine is free to all, and no one will receive a bill. You are strongly encouraged to make sure that all staff at your vaccination location, including intake staff, are trained on this. Staff should clearly communicate to patients that, although they might ask for an ID and insurance, these are not required. [Posters](#) and [flyers](#) are available at no cost from the [MA Health Promotion Clearinghouse](#).
- **Maintaining Accurate Inventory in the MIIS:** Providers should ensure that the inventory in the MIIS is accurate and matches physical inventory. Providers agreed to maintain an accurate inventory when completing the MCVP agreement. Inability to do so may be considered fraud and abuse. For help updating your inventory use the [MIIS & Accountability resource](#), or contact the Vaccine Unit at 617-983-6828.

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** Recorded webinars for healthcare providers administering COVID-19 vaccines.
 - CDC’s [What Healthcare Providers Need to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines and Becoming a Vaccination Provider](#) (30 minutes)
 - Public Health Communications Collaborative's [COVID-19 Vaccination and Children: Answering Parents’ Questions](#) (1 hour)
- **New** CDC MMWRs:

- 7/16: [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Insured Persons Aged ≥16 Years, by Race/Ethnicity and Other Selected Characteristics — Eight Integrated Health Care Organizations, United States, December 14, 2020–May 15, 2021](#)
- 7/16: [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration, by Race and Ethnicity — North Carolina, December 14, 2020–April 6, 2021](#)
- 7/16: [Acceptability of Adolescent COVID-19 Vaccination Among Adolescents and Parents of Adolescents — United States, April 15–23, 2021](#)
- 7/16: [SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with a Gymnastics Facility — Oklahoma, April–May 2021](#)
- [Ways to Increase COVID-19 Vaccination](#): This factsheet outlines options and services available to increase vaccinations. Mobile clinics, Trust the Facts materials, and other supports can boost vaccine awareness and access.
- [COVID-19 State of Vaccine Confidence Insights Report](#) published July 7, 2021.
- The following resources are available to help with accessing the MIIS and ordering vaccine:
 - [Logging into the MIIS](#)
 - [Placing a COVID-19 Vaccine Order](#)
 - [Transferring COVID-19 vaccines](#)
 - [Processing a storage and handling issues](#)
 - [Using the inventory decrementing tool](#)
 - [Resources to help with vaccine accountability](#)
- MDPH Immunization Division is pleased to present [free accredited COVID-19 Vaccine content](#). These training sessions are designed for health care providers, vaccine coordinators, and all health care personnel who handle and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines.