



# MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

## BULLETIN

### What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 7/30/21

#### Latest Numbers

- As of 7/30, 4,356,202 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 Expiration Extension for Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine:** The FDA [authorized an extension](#) of the shelf life for the Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine from 4.5 months to 6 months (an additional 45 days). The decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 6 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36 – 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 – 8 degrees Celsius).
  - Visit <https://vaxcheck.jnj/> to confirm the latest expiration dates of vaccine, including those currently available for administration throughout the U.S. This extension applies to refrigerated vials of Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine that have been held in accordance with the manufacturer's storage conditions.
  - COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized under an EUA do not have fixed expiration dates, and their expiration dates can be extended as we get more stability data. Always be sure to check the manufacturers' websites to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for COVID-19 vaccines you have on hand.
- **New Summary of ACIP Meeting on COVID-19 Vaccines:** On 7/22/21, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to review data on reports of the rare occurrence of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) following receipt of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. The Committee also discussed a potential recommendation for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised people. Review the [meeting summary](#) from the Immunization Action Coalition.
  - ACIP concluded that the benefits of Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccine used according to current recommendations far outweigh the rare potential risks of GBS or thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS).
  - ACIP will continue to assess evidence for the safety, efficacy, and benefit of providing an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised people. In the interim, fully vaccinated immunocompromised people should continue to follow the standard recommendations for mask wearing, social distancing, and avoiding large crowds that generally apply to unvaccinated people.
  - 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 CDC Health Advisory – Vaccination to Prevent COVID-19 Outbreaks with Current and Emergent Variants:** The CDC issued this [Health Alert Network Health Advisory](#) to notify public health practitioners and clinicians about the urgent need to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage across the United States to prevent surges in new infections that could increase COVID-19 related morbidity and mortality, overwhelm healthcare capacity, and widen existing COVID-19-related health disparities.
  - **New Updated Prevacination Screening Form, Standing Orders, and Preparation & Administration Summaries:**
    - [Prevaccination Screening Form](#) (updated 7/6/21)
    - [Pfizer Standing Orders](#) (updated 7/15/21)
    - [Pfizer Preparation & Administration Summary](#) (updated 7/15/21)
    - [Moderna Standing Orders](#) (updated 7/16/21)
    - [Moderna Preparation & Administration Summary](#) (updated 7/16/21)
  - **Updated Ordering COVID-19 Vaccine in Smaller Increments:** Providers can now order COVID-19 vaccines in smaller increments. Providers should continue to place their orders in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) as usual. 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. Due to this change, it may take up to 2 to 3 business day before you get confirmation from the Vaccine Unit that the order is being fulfilled. If you have any questions about your order, contact [DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us). Please note the new minimum order quantities:
    - Moderna – 50 doses (5 vials)
    - Pfizer – 60 doses (10 vials)
    - Janssen – 25 doses (5 vials)
  - **Reminder Transporting COVID-19 Vaccines:** Providers should follow the [Emergency Pack-Out Guidance](#) when transferring COVID-19 Vaccine and ensure that they are using a digital data logger. Providers should also make sure that the ancillary kits are included in the transfer.
  - **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 [eocevent551@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent551@cdc.gov).

### Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** [Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#): Find updated information from the CDC on select adverse events, including GBS, myocarditis, TTS, death, and anaphylaxis.
- **New** CDC MMWR, 7/27/21: [Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Varying Community Transmission Levels and Vaccination Coverage](#)
- [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.
- 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.
- 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)