



150 YEARS  
OF ADVANCING  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of  
Early Education and Care

June 21, 2022

Dear Early Education and Care Providers:

Following the FDA and the CDC's authorization of COVID-19 vaccinations for children from 6 months to 5 years old, we are writing to provide you with the latest information and to strongly encourage child care providers, schools, and local communities to take an active role in promoting and administering COVID-19 vaccinations for this age group.

It is our shared goal to promote the health and well-being of all children and support their ability to consistently remain in early childhood classrooms. Vaccines for children are an extremely important tool to help keep them healthy and achieve that goal. The COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be [safe and effective in preventing severe illness and hospitalization](#), and we are asking for your help to urge parents to get their youngest children vaccinated as the best way to protect themselves and our community.

We wanted to make you aware of opportunities and resources to achieve increased vaccination rates in younger children and offer some considerations in planning your approach.

### **Promotion and Parent Engagement**

Now is a good time to engage with parents to encourage vaccination and provide resources and information. We suggest:

- Sending a tailored version of the **attached template letter** to all parents/guardians
- Posting information about vaccine locations, vaccine safety information, and helpful Q&As (available at [www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine)) to your **websites and message boards**
- **Meeting with parent groups or networks** to discuss ways to reach a parent audience

### **Mobile Vaccination Clinics**

- While many families will choose to have their young child vaccinated by their physician or health care provider, we are also making vaccination convenient and easy for busy families. As we did with schools, we are making it possible for child care providers to host on-site vaccination clinics once children 6 months to 5 years are eligible. Please visit [mass.gov/MobileVax](http://mass.gov/MobileVax) to learn about hosting a mobile clinic on site. Download the request form [here](#).


### **Age-Specific Considerations**

For 6 months to 5 years of age, there are a few considerations when planning outreach and vaccination:

- Pediatric Primary Care Providers are a good resource for parents in this age group for information and vaccination. Child care providers may want to consider partnering with local pediatricians to invite them to attend meetings or to sign onto communications.
- If holding a clinic, schedule immediately before or after drop-off times, in the evening, or on weekends to make it most convenient for busy families.

As we move forward together to increase COVID-19 vaccination in Massachusetts and encourage vaccination among this youngest age group, we welcome your support and involvement in these vaccination efforts. We continue to urge all school and child care staff and children to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and our communities.

We appreciate your assistance to keep all of our faculty, staff, volunteers, and young children safe and healthy this fall and all year long. Please contact the Department of Early Education and Care HealthLine with any questions by calling 857-488-4418 or emailing [EEHealthline@primary.health](mailto:EEHealthline@primary.health).



Margret R. Cooke, Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health



Amy Kershaw, Acting Commissioner  
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