



A new vaccine dose was approved on September 12, 2023.

Here's what has changed—and what has stayed the same.

Most health insurance plans will continue to cover the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to individuals.

- Check with your health insurance plan if you want to be sure.
- People without health insurance or those who are not sure their insurance covers vaccines can get a **free** vaccine through the CDC's Bridge Program at CVS, Walgreens, or certain community clinics, including those listed here: mass.gov/mobilevax. [Vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) also has an option to search for locations participating in the Bridge Program.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone under 19 years of age from their primary care provider or community health center, no health insurance or social security number needed.

Free COVID-19 treatments continue.

- Free telehealth services for COVID-19 treatment continue to be available to Massachusetts residents ages 18 and older. This is a quick and easy way for people who have COVID-19 to see if [Paxlovid](https://paxlovid.com) is right for them. If it is, the medicine is free and can be picked up at a local pharmacy or shipped overnight with free delivery. Learn more at mass.gov/CovidTelehealth.

COVID-19 vaccine dose guidance has changed.

- The CDC issued guidance on September 12, 2023 saying that **people ages 5 and older** are considered up to date on their COVID-19 vaccination if they have one dose of the updated vaccine—even if they never had a COVID-19 vaccine dose before.
- **Children ages 6 months through 4 years** may need more than one dose to be up to date, depending on the doses they have already had. Talk with a health care provider to learn more.
- People ages 65 and older or who are immunocompromised can get an additional dose. Learn more at mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

People who had a COVID-19 vaccine dose after September 12, 2023 have had the new vaccine.

- If people don't know when they had their dose, there are ways you can help them find out.
 - Vaccination cards list the date of each dose. People can also look up their vaccination records at myvaxrecords.mass.gov or contact the place they got their last dose.

COVID-19 vaccination clinics continue.

- DPH Mobile and the Vaccine Access and Administration (VAA) program will continue to provide clinics to select populations and communities with greatest need. Community partners can learn more about criteria and request a clinic through the [Clinic Request Form](#).
- DPH's In-home vaccination program will continue to provide services. Information and a link to request in-home vaccinations are on [Mass.gov](#).
- Communication support for building vaccine confidence and promoting clinics is available online. To access the Toolkit, visit [Mass.gov/VaxPromotionToolkit](#).
- As needs arise, DPH is prepared to increase vaccination clinics in communities with demonstrated inequities and access issues.

Vaccine Equity Initiative funding for Community Based Programs, Faith Based Programs, and Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations continues.

- Grants for COVID-19 vaccination outreach from DPH and administered by HRiA and HCFA will continue through June 2024. Health Resources in Action (HRiA) and Health Care for All (HCFA) will continue to support these programs through June 2024.

Federal and State mask mandates have ended.

- Federal and State mask mandates, including for hospitals, ended on May 11, 2023, but healthcare settings must have their own infection control policies that include masking when there is more respiratory illness in their community.

Yearly renewal for MassHealth has started up again.

- MassHealth members should make sure their information with MassHealth is updated. They may need to provide new documentation so that they can stay in the program. Visit www.mass.gov/masshealth for more information.

Free home COVID-19 test availability will change.

- Starting on September 25, 2023, every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home; go to covid.gov/tests. Insurers are no longer required to cover monthly at-home tests.
- Many organizations can order tests at a discount; visit the [statewide contract ordering page](#).
- MassHealth and other insurance will continue to cover COVID-19 PCR testing when ordered by a healthcare provider.