



Fall/Winter 2024: The COVID-19 virus continues to change.

Ways to protect yourself have changed, too.

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

- Some health plans may require you get your vaccine at an in-network location. Check with your health insurance plan if you want to be sure.
- People ages 19 and older who do not have health insurance can get a COVID-19 vaccine for free at a Community Health Center, local health department, or state-sponsored mobile vaccination vendor.
- The [CDC's Bridge Access Program](#), which had provided free vaccines in multiple venues, including pharmacies and doctors' offices, ended in August 2024.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone under 19 years of age from their primary care provider or community health center.

Updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be available Fall 2024.

- Updated vaccines for COVID-19 and flu will be available this fall; the COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be available in the second half of September.
- The COVID and flu vaccines are being updated to fight the latest strains that scientists predict will be circulating this respiratory illness season (Fall 2024 through Spring 2025).
- The guidance for this respiratory illness season will recommend that people ages 6 months and older get an updated dose of the vaccine. Current guidance at mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

Free COVID-19 telehealth services for treatment are available.

- Free COVID-19 telehealth treatment services in multiple languages are available to Massachusetts residents ages 12 and older. This is a free, quick, and easy way for people who have COVID-19 to see if [Paxlovid](#) is right for them. The service can be accessed online or by phone at (844) 352-6567. Visit mass.gov/CovidTelehealth.
- If Paxlovid is prescribed, the medicine can be picked up at a local pharmacy; Pfizer's [Co-Pay Savings Program](#) can help you save on the prescription cost.
- For people who have MassHealth, Medicare, or who do not have health insurance, the U.S. Government Patient Assistance Program provides [a voucher for free Paxlovid](#), and free overnight delivery may be available.

COVID-19 community vaccination clinics support communities with greatest need.

- DPH Mobile provides mobile vaccination clinics to populations and communities with greatest need. Community partners can learn more about eligibility criteria and request a clinic through the [Clinic Request Form](#).
- Communication support for building vaccine confidence and promoting clinics is available online. To access the Toolkit, visit [Mass.gov/VaxPromotionToolkit](https://www.mass.gov/VaxPromotionToolkit).
- As needs arise, DPH is prepared to increase vaccination clinics in communities with demonstrated inequities and access issues.

In-home COVID-19 vaccinations are available.

- DPH's in-home vaccination program provides vaccinations for COVID-19 and Flu. These services are provided at no cost to the individual.
- The in-home vaccination program is available to children and adults who have difficulty getting to or using a community vaccination location, including seniors, individuals living with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and others challenged to leave their home for vaccination services. Information and a link to request in-home vaccinations are on [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).
- In-home treatment services for COVID-19 have ended. Free COVID-19 telehealth services for treatment (Paxlovid) are available.

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.

COVID-19 tests are effective and available.

- MassHealth and other insurance will continue to cover COVID-19 PCR testing, which is done in a clinical setting, when ordered by a healthcare provider.
- Home tests for COVID-19 are available for purchase at pharmacies and other retail locations. They are no longer being provided for free by the federal government.
- You can check the FDA's webpage to see if your expired in-home tests have been extended: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>.

Information accurate as of August 7, 2024.