



MassHealth
Nursing Facility Bulletin 172
December 2021

TO: Nursing Facilities Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: Nursing Facility COVID-19 Booster/Third Vaccination Dose Supplemental Payment

Background

In response to the ongoing risks of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in long-term care facilities, MassHealth continues to implement measures to protect nursing facility staff and residents against the spread of COVID-19. Vaccinating long-term care facility residents, staff, and visitors against COVID-19 is a crucial step in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

To encourage uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine third dose and vaccine booster dose, MassHealth will provide a one-time supplemental payment for nursing facilities that meet established criteria around staff uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine third dose and booster dose by January 16, 2021. Nursing facilities are expected and encouraged to implement measures to incentivize staff uptake to meet the criteria, described below. This one-time supplemental payment may be used to offset costs to nursing facilities for those measures to incentivize COVID-19 vaccine third dose and booster dose uptake among staff.

This bulletin applies to all nursing facilities that are enrolled as MassHealth providers.

One-time COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose and Booster Dose Supplemental Payment

To qualify for this one-time supplemental payment, a nursing facility must meet the following criteria **by January 16, 2022**:

- Have at least 25 staff members at the facility who are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine third dose or booster dose.
- At least 75% of the facility's eligible staff members have received a COVID-19 vaccine third dose or booster dose.

“Eligible staff members” are those individuals defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as being eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine third dose or booster dose and who are staff of the facility as of January 16, 2022.

Nursing facilities that meet the above criteria will receive a one-time supplemental payment calculated on an individual facility basis, which may be used to offset costs associated with implementing vaccine incentive strategies. The payment will be equal to 2.5% of the individual nursing facility's average monthly MassHealth fee-for-service revenue, based on the three-month average for the months of September, October and November of 2021 and will be made to qualifying nursing facilities in February of 2022. MassHealth will determine whether a nursing facility qualifies for this supplemental payment based on the total cumulative COVID-19 vaccine third

MassHealth
Nursing Facility Bulletin 172
December 2021
Page 2 of 2

doses and booster dose vaccination data, through January 16, 2022, reported to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). MassHealth will also use the data submitted to CDC NHSN data to determine total staff at each facility as of January 16, 2022, for purposes of calculating the percent of staff who have received a COVID-19 vaccine third dose or booster dose.

MassHealth expects to codify the supplemental payment methodology in amendments to 101 CMR 206.00: *Standard Payments to Nursing Facilities*.

Information on Access to Vaccines

The Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with nursing facilities to ensure access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Additional information can be found here: [COVID-19 Booster Dose Vaccination Guidance](#).

MassHealth Website

This bulletin is available on the [MassHealth Provider Bulletins](#) web page.

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Questions

If you have questions about the information in this bulletin, please email your inquiry to support@masshealthtss.com