

# COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education

February 25, 2021

All Massachusetts Institutions of Higher Education that are authorized to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to employees and students should follow this guidance to prioritize administration in accordance with state eligibility categories. Please note that state eligibility prioritization is subject to change. For the most current state eligibility information please refer to [Massachusetts' COVID-19 vaccination phases | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-phases).

<b>PHASE 1</b>	
<b>State Eligibility</b>	<b>Campus Eligibility</b>
<i>Clinical and non-clinical health care workers doing direct and COVID-facing care</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-facing Health Services Staff</li> <li>• Those working in COVID-19 testing facilities or running COVID tests in the lab</li> <li>• Those working in vaccination sites</li> <li>• Staff or students who work in isolation or quarantine housing</li> <li>• Staff or students who assist students who are being transported to/from isolation or quarantine housing on campus following a positive test result for COVID-19 or a close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19</li> <li>• Staff or students who deliver food and other supplies to students while they are in isolation or quarantine housing because they tested positive for COVID-19 or had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.</li> <li>• Those who clean specific spaces where COVID-positive students, faculty or staff have been</li> <li>• Clinical students (medical, dental, nursing) doing COVID-facing care</li> </ul>
<i>Emergency medical services, police, and fire</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campus safety officers and staff</li> <li>• Emergency medical service providers and staff</li> </ul>
<i>Health care workers doing non-COVID-facing care</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other campus health care workers including mental health and counseling staff</li> <li>• All other clinical (medical, dental and nursing) students</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE 2</b>	
<b>State Eligibility</b>	<b>Campus Eligibility</b>
<i>Group 1: Individuals age 75+</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty, staff and students age 75 or older</li> </ul>
<i>Group 2: Individuals age 65+ Individuals w/ 2+ comorbidities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty, staff and students age 65 or older</li> <li>• Faculty, staff and students with <a href="#">2+ certain medical conditions</a> (list subject to change) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cancer</li> <li>○ Chronic Kidney Disease</li> <li>○ COPD</li> <li>○ Down Syndrome</li> <li>○ Heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies</li> <li>○ Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant</li> <li>○ Obesity or Severe Obesity (BMI above 30)</li> <li>○ Pregnancy</li> <li>○ Sickle Cell Disease</li> <li>○ Smoking</li> <li>○ Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asthma (moderate-to-severe)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Group 3: Specific workers, including early education, K-12, transit, utility, restaurant, café, food service, retail, sanitation, public works, public health</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Food service: Students or staff who deliver, handle, prepare and/or serve food to students, faculty or staff in on-campus dining facilities.</li> <li>● Custodial services: Students or staff who are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing buildings and facilities on campus, including high-touch areas, dining facilities, classrooms, residential dorms, bathroom surfaces and showers.</li> <li>● Transportation services: Students or staff who operate shuttle buses or other vehicles to transport students, faculty and staff to/from locations on or near campus.</li> <li>● Retail: Students or staff who work within retail establishments on campus such as campus bookstores.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Group 4: Individuals with 1 comorbidity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Faculty, staff and students with <a href="#">certain medical conditions</a> (list subject to change)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cancer</li> <li>○ Chronic Kidney Disease</li> <li>○ COPD</li> <li>○ Down Syndrome</li> <li>○ Heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies</li> <li>○ Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant</li> <li>○ Obesity or Severe Obesity (BMI above 30)</li> <li>○ Pregnancy</li> <li>○ Sickle Cell Disease</li> <li>○ Smoking</li> <li>○ Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus</li> <li>○ Asthma (moderate-to-severe)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>PHASE 3</b>	
<b>State Eligibility</b>	<b>Campus Eligibility</b>
<p><i>General Public, including higher education faculty and staff, bottled beverage industry workers, veterinarians</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All other faculty, staff and students</li> </ul>

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are residence halls considered congregate care settings?  
*No, but higher education employees who work in isolation or quarantine housing, as well as other staff or students who assist students who are being transported to/from isolation or quarantine housing on campus may be vaccinated as part of Phase 1.*
2. What about healthcare workers who are doing non-COVID facing care, such as Certified Athletic Trainers?  
*Healthcare workers doing non-COVID facing care are eligible in Phase 1. See [COVID-19 vaccinations for health care workers / Mass.gov](#) for more information and specific occupations.*

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3. What about faculty and staff who come into close contact with many students on a daily basis, but are not included in Phase 1 or Phase 2?  
*Faculty and staff who are working with students on a daily basis, but do not fall into Phase 1 or Phase 2, will be included in Phase 3.*
4. Can institutions of higher education vaccinate employees and students whose permanent residence is out of state or out of the country?  
*Yes.*
5. What documentation should we require to confirm a student, staff or faculty member should be prioritized?  
*Students, staff and faculty members do not need to bring documentation to confirm they should be prioritized. All vaccination sites are self-attestation. Please refer to this guidance, as posted on [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov), if questions arise at a vaccination site related to prioritization.*
6. What happens if students, staff or faculty need to split doses between one administered on campus and one administered in their home state or country? How will that be coordinated and tracked?  
*Students, staff and faculty receiving their first dose in Massachusetts will receive a vaccination card that can be presented at any Massachusetts vaccination site to receive their second dose. Administration of a second dose in other states and countries may vary. Students, staff and faculty should consult guidance from their home state or country if they need to split doses.*
7. What should we do if we have “extra” doses after vaccinating priority populations? Is it ok to use the remaining doses on other employees or students who are in other groups of Phase 2 priority phases? If yes, do we need any special permission to do so?  
*Sites can continue to vaccinate anyone in a currently eligible priority group in accordance with the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 Vaccine Plan. Vaccine can also be transferred to sites that have completed an MCVP Agreement, in consultation with the Vaccine Unit. Visit [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program \(MCVP\) – Guidance for Vaccine Providers and Organizations | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) and [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions – Vaccine Providers | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) for more information.*
8. Where can I find additional information to answer frequently asked questions from faculty, staff and students?  
*[COVID-19 vaccine frequently asked questions | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)*