

**BULLETIN**

**What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know**

**Week of 11/23/21**

**Latest Numbers**

* As of 11/23/2021 **4,833,513** people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

**Who to Vaccinate this Week**

* A primary series for anyone ages 5 and older who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts is eligible for a vaccine. Health care providers can also vaccinate their patient panels regardless of place of residency.
* An additional (third) mRNA primary series dose for people ages 12 and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, at least 28 days after the completion of the second mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose.
* A booster dose for ages 18 and older. You’re eligible for a booster if:
  + - Pfizer & Moderna: It’s been at least 6 months since the primary series
    - Johnson & Johnson: It’s been at least 2 months since the primary series

**What to Know this Week**

**BOOSTER DOSES**

**All individuals 18+ are eligible for a COVID-19 Booster** Providers should:

* Proactively outreach to patients who:
  + Are age 65 and older; or
  + Have underlying medical conditions; or
  + Received the J&J vaccine (single dose)
* Allow patients to self-determine their risk of exposure. **Providers should not turn away any** **patient who requests a booster** if the patient is:
  + 18 years of age or over and completed their primary series at least 6 months ago for the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or received their J&J vaccine at least 2 months ago.

MA booster info can be found [here](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions)

CDC booster info can be found [here](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#considerations-covid19-vax-booster) and [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html)

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In addition to providing boosters, **providers should take every opportunity to vaccinate anyone who has not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine** by offering vaccine during routine or non-routine visits to medical offices, clinics, pharmacies, and hospitals.

**DOSES FOR THE 5-11 YEAR OLD POPULATION**

CDC recommends Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 years. The Pfizer pediatric (5-11 years of age) vaccine formulation:

* Comes as a multiple dose vial with an orange cap and a label with an orange border
* The vials and cartons state ‘for age 5 years to <12 years’
* Must be diluted
* Primary series of 2 doses (0.2 mL each) 3 weeks apart in individuals 5 through 11 years of age
* Is NOT interchangeable with the 12 and older formulations
* CDC webpage on [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11 Years Old](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children.html)
* COCA Call – Thursday, November 4th - Recording & Slides available here:

([Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC’s Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series in Children 5–11 years old](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_110421.asp__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!ySZ52WjQvNG9pvDjsb7mtFkR8YU9vY_bSjq_8rO5TDGHYcn-s5K5wfesVJRIAn83ckaum2Q$))

**Reminder: Pfizer pediatric** formulation must be placed in an Ultracold freezer (until expiration date) or a refrigerator (for up to 10 weeks) upon receiving the vaccine. **Do not place the vaccine in a regular freezer or use the shipper as temporary storage. Do not refill the shipper with dry ice**.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Materials for Ages 5 through 11 years from CDC

* [The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine to Persons 5 through 11 Years of Age pdf icon[3 pages]](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer_PED_StandingOrders.pdf)
* [The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary form (Persons 5 through 11 Years of Age) pdf icon[3 pages]](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer_PED_PrepAdmin.pdf)
* [The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling Summary (5 through 11 years of age) pdf icon[2 pages]](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer_PED_StorageHandling_Summary.pdf)
* [The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling labels (5 through 11 years of age) pdf icon[1 page]](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer_PED_StorageLabel.pdf)
* [The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Beyond Use Date guidance and labels (5 through 11 years of age) pdf icon[2 pages]](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer_PED_BUD-Labels.pdf)
* [The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Transporting Vaccine for Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary or Off-Site Locations (5 through 11 years of age) pdf icon[2 pages]](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer_TransportingVaccine.pdf)
* [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Dosage Chart pdf icon[1 page]](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/Pfizer-Dosage-Chart.pdf)

**Reminder Ordering of the Pfizer Pediatric (5-11 years old) COVID-19 vaccine is available in the MIIS.** Vaccine can be ordered in 100-dose increments. For guidance on how to place COVID-19 vaccine orders in the MIS please see [mini-guide | Flu/COVID-19 order](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Flu%20COVID-19%20Order_Mini%20Guide.pdf).

**Reminder Pfizer pediatric 5-11 manufacture date** on carton and vial with a format of MM/YYYY. Expiration date is 6 months after the date of manufacture and will fall on the last day of the previous month. For 08/2021 date of manufacture, the expiration date would be January 31, 2022. You can find additional information, including a cross reference table of MFG date to EXP date at: [http://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/document/a0r68000000YRrcAAG__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!y1oQ0J_OVp0nu1Y6jjjlMCvsYwH_qsIDIIbz7REJEei3YE7ro3CF2ICh-bIfohL2u9c$)

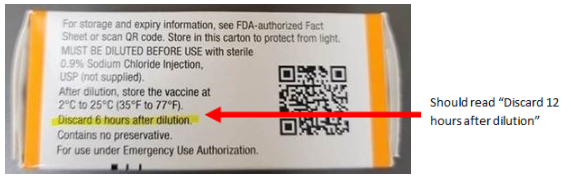
 

QR code on the Pfizer Pediatric Vaccine carton is a link to the EUA but does not provide information on expiration date. The date listed is the manufacturing date.

**Reminder Pfizer 6hr Label Correction**: The Pfizer Pediatric (orange) vials had lables printed in the months prior to amendment of the EUA by the FDA. In anticipation of approval, the labels were printed, “Discard 6 hours after dilution.”  However, the FDA approved the vaccine for discarding 12 hours after dilution. This updated information is printed in the EUA and Fact Sheets as follows:

*“After dilution, the vial should be held between 2°C to 25°C (35°F to 77°F). Vials should be discarded****12 hours after dilution****. Vial labels and cartons may state that a vial should be discarded 6 hours after the first puncture.****The information in this Fact Sheet supersedes the number of hours printed on vial labels and cartons.”***

We anticipate the label will eventually be updated, but please be aware that **ALL Pfizer pediatric vaccine should be discarded 12 hours after dilution.**Please make sure providers and staff are aware of this change to the Pfizer pediatric label.



**Reminder** **Adding Pediatric Clinics in VaxFinder** – For practices planning to offer Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for the 5-11 year old age group beyond their regular patient panels (such as to your surrounding community) please list your practice on the state VaxFinder site. The site allows practices to list:

* the ages of patients you will see
* the days and times of your clinics
* whether the clinic is walk-in or by appointment

In general, these clinics need to be more than a single event and be available across multiple dates as well as have the capacity to vaccinate a minimum of 25 patients at each clinic.

A provider looking to post on VaxFinder should fill out this form: [VaxFinder Site Update Form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1B-2Ag6THf1shOWGjXeUdgs0YVCOrvb5X3I1Nwhxh9-4/viewform?edit_requested=true)

Buoy Health will follow up with your practice to confirm and complete the listing and add your clinics to VaxFinder as well as place it on the map found on the [Vaccination Locations page](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/). These listings are updated daily.

**Reminder Updated EUAs:**

Once a new EUA Fact Sheet is issued, it must be used. Previous ones no longer contain accurate information.

* Pfizer Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>
* Pfizer Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>
* Pfizer, HCP, 5-11 years: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download>
* Pfizer, Recipient, 5-11 years: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download>
* Moderna Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>
* Moderna Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>
* Janssen Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>
* Janssen Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>

**COVID-19 vaccine dosages**

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<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

Important notes:

* The primary series should be completed with the same product.
* Booster doses can be any product. The Moderna booster dose is half the dose used in the primary series.
* If eligible for a booster dose, someone who received a Pfizer primary series can get any FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) as the booster dose, at an interval of ≥6 months since primary vaccination.
* If eligible for a booster dose, someone who received a Moderna primary series can get any FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) as the booster dose, at an interval of ≥6 months since primary vaccination.
* Persons aged ≥18 years who received primary vaccination with Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should receive a single COVID-19 vaccine booster dose ≥2 months after their primary dose. Any FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) can be used as the booster dose, at an interval of ≥2 months after the primary Janssen vaccine dose.

**Moderna Multidose Vials (MDVs)**

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is supplied in two MDV presentations: A MDV containing 5.5 mL and a MDV containing 7.5 mL. Primary series doses of 0.5 mL and booster doses of 0.25 mL may be extracted from either vial presentation. If the amount of vaccine remaining in the vial cannot provide a full dose of 0.5 mL or 0.25 mL, discard the vial and contents. Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials.

* When extracting only primary series doses, a maximum of 11 doses (range: 10-11 doses) may be extracted from the vial containing 5.5 mL or a maximum of 15 doses (range: 13-15 doses) may be extracted from the vial containing 7.5 mL.
* When extracting only booster doses or a combination of primary series and booster doses, the maximum number of doses that may be extracted from either vial presentation should not exceed 20 doses. Do not puncture the vial stopper more than 20 times.
* The link below is provided to assist with determining the amount of waste that may be reported in vials of Moderna 14 or Moderna 10 when administering a combination of primary (0.5mL) and booster (0.25mL) doses. [Guidance for Vaccine Providers and Organizations](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvp-guidance-for-vaccine-providers-and-organizations#guidance-on-use-and-allowable-wastage-of-covid-19-vaccine-)
  + Process a [storage and handling issue](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Storage%20Handling%20Problem_2018_Mini%20Guide.pdf) in the MIIS to report the wasted doses remaining in the vial.

**Reminder Number of doses that can be extracted from each multi-dose vial (MDV)**

MDPH Immunization Division guidance is to extract no more than the number of doses that are officially stated in the EUA as being in the multi-dose vial. (ie., Pfizer 5-11 yo/orange top 10 doses; Pfizer purple top 6 doses).

**Reminder Mixing and Matching COVID-19 Vaccines** (heterologous boosters)

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a [booster](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html) dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix-and-match dosing for booster shots. People who have questions about whether one vaccine is better for them than the others should discuss their individual situation with their healthcare provider. CDC has indicated that individual risk-benefit assessment informing which booster product to use may include the availability of booster product and the risk profile of vaccine boosters, including rare events.

\*\*Important Note: this mix and match is for booster doses only! All doses of the primary series and additional dose (if indicated for moderately to severely immunocompromised people who received 2 doses of mRNA vaccine) should utilize the same vaccine product.

**Reminder Definition of “fully vaccinated”** has not changed. At this time, people are still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

**Reminder Coadministration**

If a patient is eligible, both flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same visit, as recommended by [CDC and ACIP](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html#Coadministration). In addition to flu vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine can be given with other vaccines as well.

**Reminder The Importance of Keeping Consumer Demographic Information in MIIS Up to Date During COVID-19:** Due to increased demand for access to vaccination records and proof of vaccination, it is critical that vaccination records remain as up-to-date as possible in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). As Massachusetts explores potential vaccine credential systems, the Department of Public Health is strongly encouraging providers to ensure they have an email address and/or phone number for every patient in their MIIS immunization records. For example, providers can do this via automated emails or text messages to their patients or by reconciling their internal records so each patient can be reached by phone or email.

The MIIS allows providers to access their patient records through this web-based application to enable demographic and immunization updates. You can view [Patient Lookup in the MIIS](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/MIIS%20documents%20OS%20/Patient%20Lookup/Patient%20Lookup_player.html) for more information. Technical solutions will be available soon to allow demographic only updates to be sent directly from your electronic health record systems. Please contact the MIIS Helpdesk [miishelpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:miishelpdesk@mass.gov) for more information.

**Reminder** **COVID-19 Vaccine Product Guides** The link below is the updated version of the Product Guide, which includes information on both the Pfizer pediatric 100 and 300 and Moderna booster ancillary supplies.  This guide provides specifications for COVID-19 vaccine and associated products. This is NOT a catalog from which you can order products. It provides key product information including product package dimensions and weight, minimum order quantities, product presentation, distribution method, storage information, and additional information.  This guide is updated as more products become available. <https://www.mass.gov/media/2365116/download>

**Reminder COVID-19 Vaccine Ordering** All vaccine orders placed in the MIIS are reviewed and approved within 3 business days after being submitted. Once approved, the Vaccine Management Unit submits orders daily to the CDC for processing and shipping. CDC ships vaccines within 3-4 business days. Orders from sites showing large, expiring, or expired doses of COVID-19 vaccine inventory could be delayed, reduced, or canceled by the Vaccine Management Unit. To prevent orders from being delayed, reduced, or canceled providers must:

* ensure that the MIIS inventory matches the site’s physical inventory
* confirm that all doses administered have been reported and processed in MIIS
* confirm that all storage and handling issues have been reported in MIIS

**Please Note:** Repackaging of COVID-19 vaccines doses for smaller ordering sizes is only available for primary care provider (PCP) offices – (community health centers, pediatric, family medicine, internal medicine practices in addition to small specialty practices). Smaller dose orders can still be placed as usual in MIIS. Individual exceptions to these ordering limitations may be made on a case by case basis by contacting the Vaccine Unit.

**The minimum dose amounts orderable by PCPs:**

* **60 doses (6 dose vial) of Pfizer (12+ formulation)**
* **70 doses (14 dose vial) of Moderna**
* **25 doses (5 dose vial) of Johnson & Johnson**

The Vaccine Unit will be fulfilling orders from the State Lab, and courier services will deliver vaccines and ancillary kits. Vaccines are transported in a cooler and in refrigerated temperature range with a digital data logger. Upon receiving Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, ensure vaccines are placed in the refrigerator and write the beyond used date on the vials.

For all other provider sites, the following packaging presentation of COVID-19 vaccines are available for ordering:

* Pfizer (12+) 1170 doses
* Pfizer (12+) 450 doses
* Pfizer pediatric (5-11) 100 doses
* Moderna 100 doses
* Johnson and Johnson 100 doses

Sites must provide a justification to order above the ceiling limits and meet the conditions below:

* Site are maintaining no more than a 30-day supply of vaccine (or up to a 45-day supply for primary care provider offices). Given the ample supply of vaccine, there is no need to order quantities beyond your anticipated 30-day/45-day throughput to ensure adequate supply.
* Report to the MIIS all doses within 24 hours of administration
* Agree to [allowable vaccine wastage guidelines](https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-on-use-and-allowable-wastage-of-covid-19-vaccine/download) (updated October 13, 2021)

**Reminder Moderna 14 discontinued** and no longer available for ordering in the MIIS. Orders for Moderna 10 will be identified by the same NDC as previous Moderna 10 orders (NDC= 80777-273-99).

All Moderna 10 orders will include 2 ancillary kits to support administration of booster doses.

* Process a storage and handling is for wasted/expired doses in the MIIS. The link here is the [Vaccine Storage and Handling Problem - mini guide](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Storage%20Handling%20Problem_2018_QSG.pdf).

**Reminder Moderna Expiry Extension** Moderna continues to update data regarding extension of expired dates. Expiration dates are in the process of being updated in the MIIS inventory page.

The product **must be maintained in the frozen state** for the extension to be applicable (extension does not apply to thawed vials).  Moderna’s look up tool remains the official indicator of product expiry.

Look up the expiration date by scanning the QR code located on the carton or use the company’s[expiration date lookup feature](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/immunizationmanagers.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13b4fdc9ac0078e4c57522c2b&id=6181362be6&e=4f158a4069__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!03QOLXFHCPymkcHCo8nvoT_gOVwBlH5VIr05BwLE885A93L9Sdz21q-KFBl9i_lmzpI5Yoc$) on its website.

**Resources & Learning Opportunities**

**Reminder Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**, better known as MMWR, is CDC’s primary publication for disseminating the science it produces. The staff at MMWR have launched a [landing page](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/covid19_vaccine_safety.html) to help people find the latest information on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and safety.

**CDC MMWRs**

**November 19, 2021 (Early Release)**

* [Risk for Stillbirth Among Women With and Without COVID-19 at Delivery Hospitalization — United States, March 2020–September 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7047e1.htm?s_cid=mm7047e1_w)

**November 19, 2021**

* [Incidence of SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Emergency Department Visits, and Hospitalizations Because of COVID-19 Among Persons Aged ≥12 Years, by COVID-19 Vaccination Status — Oregon and Washington, July 4–September 25, 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7046a4.htm?s_cid=mm7046a4_w)

**November 12, 2021**

* [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in Children Aged 5–11 Years — United States, November 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7045e1.htm?s_cid=mm7045e1_w)

**Reminder** MDPH Immunization Division’s [free accredited COVID-19 Vaccine Training](https://macovidvax.populationhealthexchange.org/) was updated on October 13, 2021. A list of the updates is available from a link on the training site home page. These training sessions are designed for health care providers, vaccine coordinators, and all health care personnel who handle and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines.

**Reminder** **Vaccine Providers: Check Out CDC’s New Learning Module on Vaccine Coadministration**

CDC has a new resource for vaccine providers on [coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/webinars.html), including flu vaccines. This module covers clinical considerations, best practices, and resources on coadministration. Providers are encouraged to offer patients COVID-19 vaccine and flu vaccine at the same visit if the timing coincides. Continuing education is available for this course.

**Reminder** The AAP has launched a [COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign Toolkit](https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/covid-19-vaccine-toolkit/) containing customizable messages, videos, and graphics to help reassure parents and caregivers about the COVID-19 vaccine for children, teens, and young adults. The contents of this toolkit are designed to reach parents who have not yet vaccinated their eligible children and encourage them to talk to a trusted provider.

**MDPH Resources**

**Reminder** **Massachusetts resources**

* COVID-19 [booster frequently asked questions](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions)
* Eligibility [questions and an Eligibility Checker](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions#eligibility-) tool
* Search for Vaccine locations: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>
* COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line/2-1-1 is available for individuals who are unable to use Vaxfinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet. Available in English and Spanish and has translators available in approximately 100 additional languages.
* COVID-19 [Vaccine Information](https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine)

**Immunization Division Main Number**

For questions about immunization recommendations, disease reporting, etc.

Phone: 617-983-6800 (24/7 MDPH Epi line)

Fax: 617-983-6840

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/topics/immunization>

**MIIS Help Desk**

Phone: 617-983-4335

Fax: 857-323-8321

Email questions to: [miishelpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:miishelpdesk@mass.gov)

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-immunization-information-system-miis>

**MDPH Vaccine Unit**

Phone: 617-983-6828

Email questions to: [dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov)

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/vaccine-management>

**COVID-19 email box:**

Email questions to: [COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov)