

**BULLETIN**

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

**Week of 1/19/2022**

**LATEST NUMBERS**

* As of 1/19/2022 **5,163,898** people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

Massachusetts has now fully vaccinated over 5 million people!

**WHO TO VACCINATE THIS WEEK**

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 5 years and older for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). **People ages 5-17 can get the Pfizer vaccine. People age 18+ can get any vaccine.**

* 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 5 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 everyone **ages 12 years and older**
* **At least 5 months** after completion of an **mRNA** vaccine primary series.

(includes those who received two doses of different mRNA vaccine products, and those immunocompromised persons who received an additional primary series dose)

* **At least 2 months** after completion of a **Janssen/J&J** primary dose.

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**WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK**

**New The Role of OB/GYNs in Building Vaccine Confidence*:*** As providers of health care throughout a patient’s life, obstetrician-gynecologists are uniquely positioned to educate patients on the benefits and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine. The [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)](https://www.acog.org/news/news-articles/2021/01/obstetrician-gynecologists-role-building-vaccine-confidence) outlines three steps OB/GYNs can take to build vaccine confidence with patients, including:

* Review ACOG’s [Practice Advisory](https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care) on vaccinating pregnant and lactating patients against COVID-19.
* Use ACOG’s COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy [Conversation Guide](https://www.acog.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccines-and-pregnancy-conversation-guide-for-clinicians) for clinicians.
* Tell your patients about the COVID-19 resources on ACOG’s new [patient website](https://www.acog.org/womens-health/covid-19).

**Reminder Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines**

To align with standard language CDC uses about other vaccinations, CDC will now use the phrase “up to date” when talking about COVID-19 vaccination. CDC recommends that individuals stay “up to date” by receiving any additional doses they are eligible for, according to CDC’s recommendations, to ensure they have optimal protection against COVID-19. The technical definition of “fully vaccinated” – two doses of an mRNA vaccine or one dose of the Janssen/J&J vaccine – has not changed. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of their primary series. For more information, and to see a detailed table, please visit [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!0bvqomVp3-NQWsKsAQuLGJN_K7OJQLFHvKwDMK9-LmSVGPGhUS1Sy58DTVFTpb-siRSIPQ$).

**Reminder COVID-19 Quick Reference Guide**

CDC’s [quick reference guide](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/covid19-vaccine-quick-reference-guide-2pages.pdf) is a 2-page document that provides basic information on the proper storage, preparation, and administration of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine products in the United States.

**Reminder CDC’s Product Info by US Vaccine webpage now has Pfizer info in three separate subpages:**

* [Orange Cap Age 5 through 11](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/pfizer-bioNTech-children-adolescents.html)
* [Purple Cap Age 12 and Older](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/bioNTech-purple-cap-12-and-over.html)
* [Gray Cap Age 12 and Older](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/bioNTech-gray-cap-12-and-over.html)

**Reminder Expiration Extension for Pfizer orange cap/Dilute/5-11year old and gray cap/Do Not Dilute/12+year old**

On December 16th the FDA approved a shelf-life extension for the Pfizer Pediatric vaccine (orange cap, 5-11 year old, diluent required) and Adolescent/Adult Tris vaccine (gray cap, age 12+, no diluent). This approval may be found at [Healthcare Providers for 5-11 years of age, orange cap (must dilute) (fda.gov)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.fda.gov/media/153714/download__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!3IZrvIleQM4qbC_WsqxGaepfhPn1-chH3KTDLthxJ4X76_8HficOsKEownU54HGG90AeClM$) ; [Healthcare Providers for 12 years of age and older, gray cap (no dilution) (fda.gov)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.fda.gov/media/153715/download__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!3IZrvIleQM4qbC_WsqxGaepfhPn1-chH3KTDLthxJ4X76_8HficOsKEownU54HGG0G00sjY$) and takes effect immediately. **This extension applies to frozen (ULT) inventories only.**

As you are aware, the date printed on the Pfizer Pediatric (orange cap) and Adolescent/Adult (gray cap, 12+, no diluent) vaccine vials indicate the manufacture date and NOT the expiration date.  Originally, the expiration date was 6 months from the manufacture date.  **The expiration date for Pfizer orange and gray cap vaccine has now been extended to 9 months (while held at ULT frozen).**  The Fact Sheets for both orange and gray cap vials provided by the FDA now reads, “regardless of storage conditions, vaccines should not be used after 9 months from the date of manufacture printed on the vial and cartons”.  The updated expiry dates for both the orange and gray cap vials based on 9 months from the date of manufacture are provided below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Printed Manufacturing Date** | **9-Month Expiry Date\*** |
| 06/2021 | Feb. 28, 2022 |
| 07/2021 | Mar. 31, 2022 |
| 08/2021 | Apr. 30, 2022 |
| 09/2021 | May 31, 2022 |
| 10/2021 | Jun. 30, 2022 |
| 11/2021 | July. 31, 2022 |
| 12/2021 | Aug. 31, 2022 |
| 01/2022 | Sept. 30, 2022 |
| 02/2022 | Oct. 31, 2022 |

\*Date of expiration always falls on the last day of the month

**The QR code provided on the Pfizer Pediatric Vaccine carton provides a link to the EUA but does not provide information on expiration dates.**

**Reminder** **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines**

There is a nice comparison guide from the Pfizer website [Pfizer Formulation/Presentation Guide – Dec 2021](https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/Vaccine-Formulation-Presentation-Guide.pdf) *(please note, as of 1/13/2022 the extended expiration dates at ultra low freezer temps are not yet reflected in this document)*

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**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.

**Reminder EUA Fact Sheets**

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

* Pfizer, HCP, 12 years of age and older, purple cap (must dilute): <https://www.fda.gov/media/153713/download>
* Pfizer, HCP, 12 years of age and older, gray cap (no dilution): <https://www.fda.gov/media/153715/download>
* Pfizer, HCP, 5 - 11 years of age, orange cap (must dilute): <https://www.fda.gov/media/153714/download>
* Pfizer, Recipient, 12 years of age and older: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>
* Pfizer, Recipient, 5-11 years: <https://www.fda.gov/media/153717/download>
* Moderna, HCP: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>
* Moderna, Recipient: <https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>
* Janssen, HCP: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>
* Janssen, Recipient: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>

[**Primary Series**](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#primary-series)

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[**Boosters**](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#booster-dose)

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Vaccinate Your Family has put together this [chart](https://149400210.v2.pressablecdn.com/wp-content/uploads/1-7-22-UPDATED-Booster-and-Third-Dose-Graphic.png):

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**Reminder** **Booster doses for People who received COVID-19 vaccine outside the United States**

The Interim Clinical Considerations contain guidance for these situations. Please refer to the guidance [here](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#people-vaccinated-outside-us).

People who completed all of the recommended doses of an WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccine not approved or authorized by FDA, or people who completed a heterologous (mix-and-match) series composed of any combination of FDA-approved, FDA-authorized, or WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccines:

* Are considered fully vaccinated.
* People aged ≥ 12 years (including moderately or severely immunocompromised people who received an additional primary dose) should receive a single booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine at least 5 months after completing their primary series.

[Footnote 4](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#foot-04), in the Clinical Considerations, has a list of WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccines. The list will be updated as additional COVID-19 vaccines receive an EUL from WHO. As of 1/17/2022 the list is:

* Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (e.g., BNT162b2, COMIRNATY, Tozinameran)
* AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID-19 Vaccine (e.g., [ChAdOx1-S (recombinant)], AZD1222, Covishield, Vaxzevria)
* Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine (e.g., Ad26.COV2.S)
* Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (e.g., mRNA 1273, Takeda, Spikevax)
* Sinopharm-BIBP COVID-19 Vaccine
* Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 Vaccine
* Bharat Biotech International COVID-19 Vaccine (e.g., BBV152, COVAXIN)
* Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine (e.g., NVX-CoV2373, Covovax)

**Reminder** **Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for COVID-19**

Updated [guidance](https://www.mass.gov/doc/use-of-therapeutics-for-treatment-of-covid-19-0/download) was issued January 12,2022, replacing the guidance issued December 23, 2021.

Massachusetts has several public sites administering monoclonal antibody treatment, therapies that have shown to be effective in reducing severity of disease and keeping COVID-19-positive individuals from being hospitalized. Referral from a health care provider is required for treatment, which is provided at no cost to the patient and offered regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Patients should discuss with their health care providers whether monoclonal antibody treatment is right for them.

Provider information, including an [overview](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/information-for-providers-about-monoclonal-antibody-mab-therapy-treatment-for-covid-19#overview-), [guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/information-for-providers-about-therapeutic-treatments-for-covid-19#guidance-), and a [Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Locator](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/information-for-providers-about-monoclonal-antibody-mab-therapy-treatment-for-covid-19#monoclonal-antibody-therapy-locator-) can be found [here](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/information-for-providers-about-therapeutic-treatments-for-covid-19).

**Reminder Public Portal Launch – Please Ensure Patient Information in the MIIS is Up to Date.**

On January 10, 2022 [the Baker-Polito administration announced](https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-launches-tool-for-residents-to-access-covid-19-digital-vaccine-card) a new option for residents to access their COVID-19 vaccination record from the state’s immunization registry and obtain a ‘SMART Health Card’ QR code to indicate proof of vaccination.  Massachusetts residents can visit [www.myvaxrecords.mass.gov](http://www.myvaxrecords.mass.gov), a web portal that follows national standards for security and privacy and provides residents a way to electronically view and save their COVID-19 vaccine record.  By providing a cell phone number or email address, users can obtain a digital record of their vaccinations recorded in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System. Their COVID-19 vaccination record includes a unique QR code that can be saved to the user’s phone files, camera roll or the Apple Wallet. It can also be printed out for a paper record.

Patients now have increased accessibility to obtain their immunizations through [My Vax Records](http://www.myvaxrecords.mass.gov/). As a reminder it is important to keep patient demographic information in MIIS up to date during COVID-19. Massachusetts providers who vaccinate individuals are required to enter certain data into the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). This allows users to access their vaccination records for any reason they may need them.  Patients with missing or out-of-date demographic information (such as phone, email) may not be able to return a match. These patients will be directed to their healthcare provider who is responsible for updating their immunization record in the MIIS.  Therefore, the Department of Public Health strongly encourages providers to ensure they have an email address and/or phone number for patients in their MIIS immunization records.

The MIIS allows providers to make updates to patient demographics in the following ways:

1.  Access their patient records through this web-based application to enable demographic and immunization updates. You can view [Patient Lookup](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/MIIS%20documents%20OS%20/Patient%20Lookup/Patient%20Lookup_player.html) in the MIIS for more information.

2.  Technical solutions are available to allow demographic only updates to be sent directly from your electronic health record systems.

3.  A one-time bulk file will be accepted and uploaded into the MIIS.

Please contact the MIIS Helpdesk [miishelpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:miishelpdesk@mass.gov) for more information.

**RESOURCES & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Reminder COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules**

CDC’s four training modules (General Overview, Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen/J&J) can be found [here](https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/).

**Reminder COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar Series**

CDC is offering a series of brief (15-20 minute) webinars addressing topics around COVID-19 vaccination. These interactive, web-based training modules offer a real-world perspective on different issues around COVID-19 vaccines. Topics range from routine clinical and vaccine safety information to guidance for on-site clinic vaccination activities and having conversations with vaccine recipients. Each webinar includes self-test practice questions and lists additional resources related to the topic discussed. The landing page for all mini webinars is here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training-education/webinars.html>

**Reminder From MAPC - Creative COVID-19 Communications**

[Free-to-use graphics, videos, and more](https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/covid19-art/)! MAPC’s Arts & Culture and Public Health teams partnered with local artists and designers to produce creative, culturally resonant communications about COVID-19 and vaccinations. The materials are available for public use. Municipalities, health agencies, community groups, and members of the public can freely use them to encourage vaccinations in their communities.

**Reminder** **Communication Skills for Clinicians Discussing COVID-19 Vaccination**

[PNQIN](https://www.pnqinma.org/) (Perinatal Neonatal Quality Improvement Network) and UMass Chan Medical School are offering [free trainings](https://www.pnqinma.org/vaccine-initiative-events-trainings) on: *Communication Skills for Clinicians Discussing COVID-19 Vaccination.* This training is a 90-minute webinar designed to improve the counseling skills of Massachusetts clinicians and other providers for discussing COVID-19 vaccination with pregnant and postpartum people, parents and caregivers of young children, and families. The training will also focus on addressing vaccine hesitancy and reducing racial disparities in rates of COVID-19 vaccination. Continuing Education credits available.

Registration links and info:

[January 21st:](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcofu6tqTgiGtyCQRPyV9Ksk_T97igpmkMV__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1k0pCGlt9eYSmCvcSnFILfKmtd8oEmnDvt3k0NrQ6CJ6EHabdTIRhY1Xb69VtQXpykAoqA$) 12:00pm – 1:30pm

[February 11th:](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocOqvqT4rE9JjBan51Vn0pzSinQNU41rL__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1k0pCGlt9eYSmCvcSnFILfKmtd8oEmnDvt3k0NrQ6CJ6EHabdTIRhY1Xb69VtQX9iZKOqg$) 12:00pm – 1:30pm

**Reminder CDC launches “Interactive COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations Module for Healthcare Professionals”**  
CDC has launched a new resource to equip healthcare professionals with the tools they need to have effective COVID-19 vaccine conversations with patients. The [Interactive COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations Module for Healthcare Professionals](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/conversations-module.html) includes:

* Tips for Having Effective Vaccine Conversations with Patients
* Vaccine Conversations in Practice: Case Scenarios

**Reminder** **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Updates** on Current & Immunization Site Training

Pfizer Vaccines US Medical Affairs continues to host frequent (almost daily) *Medical Updates & Immunization Site Training for All Providers.* Session topics include:

* Use of vaccine for Children 5 through 11 Years of Age, and Individuals 12 Years of Age and Older
* Storage, Handling, Preparation, & Administration for the multiple presentations of the vaccine
* Recent medical updates regarding the vaccine
* An overview of healthcare provider resources
* Question and answer session

To access current and future training sessions, please visit: [https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/medical-updates__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wnopdixLkKhCVeMjUiwcd-KVQVUN9jXipkisyDlTme9oe3pB9EYR1yJo7AhKgBWejq3FUBI$)

**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**

**January 14, 2022 (EARLY RELEASE)**

* [Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Receipt of Medications for Treatment of COVID-19 — United States, March 2020–August 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7103e1.htm?s_cid=mm7103e1_w)

**January 14, 2022**

* [Effectiveness of BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) mRNA Vaccination Against Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Among Persons Aged 12–18 Years — United States, July–December 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7102e1.htm?s_cid=mm7102e1_w)
* [Risk for Newly Diagnosed Diabetes >30 Days After SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Persons Aged <18 years — United States, March 1, 2020–June 28, 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7102e2.htm?s_cid=mm7102e2_w)

**January 7, 2022**

* [Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19 Outcomes Among Persons Aged ≥18 Years Who Completed a Primary COVID-19 Vaccination Series — 465 Health Care Facilities, United States, December 2020–October 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7101a4.htm?s_cid=mm7101a4_w)
* [Receipt of COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy and Preterm or Small-for-Gestational-Age at Birth — Eight Integrated Health Care Organizations, United States, December 15, 2020–July 22, 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7101e1.htm?s_cid=mm7101e1_w)

**MDPH RESOURCES**

**Reminder** **Massachusetts Resources**

* COVID-19 [Vaccine Information](https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine)
* COVID-19 [booster information](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions) and [booster frequently asked questions](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions)
* 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.

**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)