**BULLETIN What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 12/31/20**

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**Progress to Date**

* As of 12/30, 281,150 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 90,738 people have received their first dose (please note that these data are different from the [Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Report](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-program#weekly-covid-19-vaccination-report-), which includes data through 12/29).

**What to Know this Week**

* *Second doses*: Second doses for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine ordered on 12/4 shipped out the week of 12/28. If sites redistributed any vaccine, sites are responsible for also redistributing the same amount of second doses. Moving forward, first and second doses of vaccine will be shipped in the same order. Sites will need to distinguish second doses within the order. ​
* *Anaphylaxis following COVID-19 vaccination*: Review CDC’s [Interim Considerations: Preparing for the Potential Management of Anaphylaxis at COVID19 Vaccination Sites](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/anaphylaxis-management.html) and Immunization Action Coalition’s [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Adults in Community Setting](https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3082.pdf).
* *Revised EUA for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine*: On 12/23 the FDA posted [the reissued letter of authorization and revised fact sheets](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine) and [FAQs](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions) for providers and recipients.

**Who to Vaccinate this Week**

* Massachusetts is currently in Phase 1. All COVID-19 vaccination efforts should focus on immunizing COVID-19-facing healthcare personnel (HCP). **Other priority groups should not be activated at this time.** The earliest that First Responder vaccinations may begin is 1/11/21.
* COVID-19-facing HCP include employees, contractors, students in the clinical training programs or from affiliated academic institutions reporting to the facility, and others who provide care and services to patients who are infected with COVID-19 or come into contact with COVID-infected materials. This category includes COVID-19-facing non-medical staff, such environmental services, food services, etc.
* If you have vaccinated all COVID-19-facing HCP at your facility and still have doses remaining, do not stop vaccinating. You should help vaccinate other COVID-19-facing HCP in your community.
  + Vaccine can be redistributed to sites that have completed a Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP) Agreement. See attached document for redistribution information. Please note this does not apply to temporary off-site clinics.
  + Sites that are redistributing vaccine must complete the attached transfer document and email to [DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us).
* For more information, refer to Massachusetts’ phased approach to COVID-19 vaccination at [When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine? | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine). Groups are listed in order of priority.

**Redistribution of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine**

If the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine must be redistributed, consider the following general principles:

* Once a vial of vaccine has thawed, it may be stored refrigerated at 2° to 8°C for up to 30 days.
* Once thawed, the vaccine cannot be re-frozen.
* When thawed, the vaccine should be handled with care and protected from shocks, drops, vibration, etc.
* Vaccine being transported at temperatures others than frozen (-15 to -25°C) should begin with the vaccine in the frozen state if at all possible.
* If you must transport vaccine that has already been thawed, follow these general principles:
  + Punctured vials should not be transported.
  + Care must be taken to ensure vaccine does not re-freeze during transport.
  + Vaccine must be protected as much as possible from drops, shocks, and vibration whether in the carton, vial, case or cooler.
  + Vaccine should be transported in the carton whenever possible.
  + If transport must be conducted at the vial level, place the vial with dunnage (padding material like bubble wrap or similar padding) to minimize movement during transport.
  + The vaccine should always be transported in insulated containers qualified to maintain 2° to 8°C for the duration of transport.
  + The transport containers must be secured when being transported to prevent unnecessary movement.
  + After completion of transport, vaccine should immediately be placed into a vaccine storage unit at 2° to 8°C.
  + Vaccine should only be transported one time and should not be transported back again to the point of origin or to a new location.
  + Allowable timelines for transport of thawed vaccine are shown below.  Total transport time should not exceed 12 hours in total.
    - Transport while walking or using hand cart: not to exceed 1 hour
    - Vehicle transport: not to exceed 12 hours
    - Airplane transport (rotary wing aircraft not allowed): not to exceed 3 hours

**Expiration Dates and COVID-19 vaccines**

* The expiration date should be checked prior to preparing or administering vaccine. Expired vaccine or diluent should NEVER be used. As additional stability data become available, the expiration dates for some products may change.
* **For EUA COVID-19 vaccines that do not have a final expiration date**, CDC has set up an expiration date of 12/31/2069 to serve as a placeholder date in VTrckS. Such vaccines have a dynamic expiration date, which can change over time as additional stability data become available. This placeholder date, which is far in the future, is intended to serve as a prompt for the provider to check the latest expiry information on the manufacturer’s website.
  + **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:**To determine the expiration date, providers can scan the QR code located on the vial or carton or visit the manufacturer’s [website](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.modernatx.com_covid19vaccine-2Deua&d=DwMF-g&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=odrC2_VQugK58X57UEr8QKWFVMMAdE-2Omse1Y8qXEw&m=hfDfXOM4yjQDoMOFKfNd8VWNJkrhjyj5jGehjnmqdZI&s=4EMZDqtFORBOYsUoUqf_GHf8zhmOR6iaYrTqrQOTppg&e=), enter the lot number, and the expiration date will be displayed. CDC’s [COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Tracking Tool](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.cdc.gov_vaccines_covid-2D19_info-2Dby-2Dproduct_pfizer_downloads_expiration-2Dtracker.pdf&d=DwMF-g&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=odrC2_VQugK58X57UEr8QKWFVMMAdE-2Omse1Y8qXEw&m=hfDfXOM4yjQDoMOFKfNd8VWNJkrhjyj5jGehjnmqdZI&s=5Y8omEmy3PH4OzekSWReGpFTaR2-MeiK0tCw0Vv_wG4&e=)can help providers track the expiration date by lot number.
  + **Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:**The expiration date is located on the vaccine vial. CDC will update VTrckS effective immediately to replace the placeholder date in VTrckS with the actual expiration date.

**Vaccine Ordering Process**

* At this time, the DPH Vaccine Unit will order for providers. Orders are placed in the MIIS and then transmitted to CDC for fulfillment. The vaccine shipment should arrive 48-72 hours from the order. You will be notified when you are able to order vaccine directly from MIIS.
* Providers that receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine will receive an ancillary kit. Each kit supports administration of 100 doses.
* Providers that receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will receive a combination ancillary and mixing kit. Each kit supports the administration of 975 doses. Providers that receive Pfizer vaccine will also receive an initial dry ice replenishment. Vaccine can be maintained in the original shipping container for up to 30 days if dry ice is replenished every 5 days. Providers intending to keep Pfizer vaccine in the original shipper must ensure they have ongoing access to dry ice through a local vendor. Always consult the manufacturer and EUA for storage and handling.
* More information can be found in the [Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine management and administration for healthcare providers & organizations](https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-for-healthcare-providers-and-organizations-0/download)

**Resources**

* [Vaccine provider FAQ](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions-vaccine-providers) that covers distribution, timing of supply, administration, safety, vaccinating healthcare providers, storage, and MIIS registration, enrollment, and training.
* Additional detailed [guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvp-guidance-for-healthcare-providers-and) on vaccine management, administration, and other topics.
* CDC and FDA [resources](https://www.mass.gov/lists/additional-covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-providers): such as:
  + Clinical information and resources for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, including Standing Orders Template, a Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary Sheet, and information on storage and handling.
  + Interim clinical considerations for use of authorized mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, including preparing for the initial assessment and management of anaphylaxis.
  + Information about V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker, a smartphone-based tool that provides personalized health check-ins after a COVID-19 vaccination.
  + Communication Toolkit for Medical Centers, Clinics, and Clinicians, which includes ready-made materials to build confidence about COVID-19 vaccination among healthcare teams and other staff.
* [EUA fact sheets](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-information-for-providers#fda-emergency-use-authorization-(eua)-) for providers and caregivers, available in multiple languages.
* For sites using the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine
  + Moderna COVID-19 vaccine [website](file:///C:\Users\kcranston\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\F6Z30CHK\o%09http:\www.modernatx.com\covid19vaccine-eua\) and [Storage and Handling video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-YoGpg_bVM&feature=emb_title)
  + The Moderna Call Center is available from 8am to 8pm EST, Monday through Friday and can be reached at 1-866-MODERNA (1-866-663-3762).

**Learning Opportunities**

* **COVID-19 Update: Vaccine Implementation.** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 2:00 PM ETNational Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID). [Register here.](https://www.nfid.org/event/covid-update-vaccination-recommendations-implementation/)
* **COVID-19 Vaccine Overview**: Learn the basics of COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and vaccine storage, handling, and administration in CDC’s [course](https://www.train.org/cdctrain/course/1094789/?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_450-DM45089&ACSTrackingLabel=COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Training&deliveryName=USCDC_450-DM45089).
* **COVID-19 Vaccine Safety:** Learn how to monitor vaccine safety and educate patients on what to expect after vaccination in CDC’s [webinar](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__t.emailupdates.cdc.gov_r_-3Fid-3Dh37ef8eb0-252C12d2e55b-252C12d3380f-26ACSTrackingID-3DUSCDC-5F450-2DDM45089-26ACSTrackingLabel-3DCOVID-2D19-2520Vaccine-2520Training-26s-3DPV4jcDmnFcgVLPIJzdSAbz15R33Ytf27Y-2DtKAVMmuNk&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=5Fyw0TWQD8t6X2LVqctYhPS7EpOS33sK8Ph8DVTp2s4&m=uACzRWMEwAdf3qix25Lj1UlDzbpleRS4E_KTESq1kXk&s=EsLBt0955aRXwNeTqJZ1yr3ynmO53_boVWcmuJzyp74&e=).
* Visit [CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/index.asp?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_450-DM45089&ACSTrackingLabel=COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Training&deliveryName=USCDC_450-DM45089) for webinar recordings and slide sets on vaccination and other timely clinical topics, such as COVID-19 Vaccines: Update on Allergic Reactions, Contraindications, and Precautions.

## On December 14, DPH hosted a COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling and administration training. More information will be provided when additional trainings are available.

* + [Access this recorded webinar here](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__register.gotowebinar.com_recording_7634552857599743233&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=rSm09uvXs4Z-GsmCy86S4DWhvei4scSL4hAv1v_YWjQ&m=MZLOzEYAMPRUVPfkBjhYSffKFzvk7Ata2q_rDKi535k&s=fdYO9Jy9i512sbw1xru-pHhz5fzuUe0lFylEkiMMc_8&e=)
  + [MDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Storage & Handling (pdf)](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.maventrainingsite.com_maven-2Dhelp_pdf_COVID-2D19-2520Storage-2520-26-2520Handling-2520Training-5FDec14.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=rSm09uvXs4Z-GsmCy86S4DWhvei4scSL4hAv1v_YWjQ&m=MZLOzEYAMPRUVPfkBjhYSffKFzvk7Ata2q_rDKi535k&s=rd-a4z5nwXWxVOD5eoHgqoYVfwoe3xOi6EOH1d8KQg4&e=)
  + [MDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Administration (pdf)](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.maventrainingsite.com_maven-2Dhelp_pdf_COVID-2D19-2520Vaccine-2520Administration-2520Hospital-2520CHC-2520Training-5FDec14.pdf&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=rSm09uvXs4Z-GsmCy86S4DWhvei4scSL4hAv1v_YWjQ&m=MZLOzEYAMPRUVPfkBjhYSffKFzvk7Ata2q_rDKi535k&s=xuHkA5dy84ZjzcHkDPvEn8rP9Fv1ksU2ws3n0m-9lpg&e=)