**BULLETIN What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 1/7/21**

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**Key Update:**

Effective January 8, 2021 hospital facilities that have unused vaccine on site and who have completed vaccination of their COVID- facing health care workers, should use the unused vaccine to begin vaccinating any individual who falls under Phase 1.

Phase 1 individuals include non-clinical health care workers, long term care facilities, rest homes, assisted living facilities, first responders (EMS, fire, police), congregate care settings (including correction and homeless shelters ), home-based healthcare workers and healthcare workers doing non-COVID- facing care.

Hospitals facilities requesting vaccine from the Department of Public Health may only request vaccine for COVID-facing health care workers and first responders at this time.

**Progress to Date**

* As of 1/7, 346,650 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 167,084 doses have been administered (data may differ from the [Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Report](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-program#weekly-covid-19-vaccination-report-)).

**What to Know this Week**

* *Weekly survey:* The Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program (MCVP) is sending a weekly survey to providers who have received COVID-19 vaccine. The survey is being sent to the emails of the primary and back up vaccine coordinators that are on file with the Department. It is essential that providers complete this survey every week. The information collected is critical to the efficient allocation of COVID-19 vaccine, particularly if a site needs more doses. If you have not received the survey or need additional vaccine before the next survey is issued, please email [DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us). Hospitals facilities requesting vaccine from the Department of Public Health may only request vaccine for COVID-facing health care workers and first responders at this time.
* *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, as they will not be marked as such.
* *Updated clinical guidance:* CDC has released updated [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fpfizer%2Fclinical-considerations.html) that include:
  + Additional information on antibody therapies and COVID-19 vaccination
  + Information on COVID-19 vaccination and outbreak management
  + Additional information on vaccination of immunocompromised persons
  + Updates to contraindications and precautions to vaccination
  + Information on COVID-19 vaccination and tuberculin skin testing
* *Important note:* **Do not shake vials of COVID-19 vaccine**.mRNA vaccines are very fragile.If a vial is shaken, discard the vaccine. Vials should only be gently swirled.
* *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).

**Who to Vaccinate this Week**

* Massachusetts is currently in Phase 1. All COVID-19 vaccination efforts should continue to focus on immunizing COVID-19-facing healthcare personnel (HCP).
  + 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.
* Staff and residents of long-term care facilities are currently being vaccinated through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program (FPPP).
* Vaccination of first responders (EMS, police, and fire) begins the week of 1/11/21.
* If you have vaccinated all COVID-19-facing HCP at your facility and still have doses remaining, do not stop vaccinating. Unused vaccine may be used to vaccinate anyone in Phase 1.
* There is no Massachusetts residency requirement to access COVID-19 vaccine.
* For more information on Massachusetts’ phased approach to COVID-19 vaccination, visit [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**.** The list of who is in each priority group will be updated periodically.

**Redistribution of COVID-19 Vaccine**

* Vaccine can be redistributed to sites that have completed an MCVP Agreement. This does not apply to temporary off-site clinics.
* Sites that are redistributing vaccine must complete a transfer form and email it to [DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us).
* Visit [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP) – Guidance for Vaccine Providers and Organizations | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvp-guidance-for-vaccine-providers-and#guidance-on-covid-19-vaccine-management-and-administration-for-healthcare-providers-&-organizations-) for redistribution guidance and a copy of the transfer form.

**Additional Doses in Pfizer and Moderna Vials**

If there is enough extra in each vial for more than the standard 5 or 10 doses, providers may administer additional doses.

* After preparation, vials of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine contain up to six doses of 0.3 mL. Low dead-volume syringes and/or needles can be used to extract up to six doses from a single vial. If standard syringes and needles are used, there may not be sufficient volume to extract a sixth dose from a single vial. Irrespective of the type of syringe and needle:
* Each dose must contain 0.3 mL of vaccine.
* If the amount of vaccine remaining in the vial cannot provide a full dose of 0.3 mL, discard the vial and any excess volume.
* Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials.
* As a reminder, use only the prescribed 1.8 ml of diluent when reconstituting a vial.
* Vaccinators may also find that they can withdraw more than 10 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from a single 10-dose vial.
* Extra vaccine fluid from more than one vial CANNOT be combined to produce extra doses.
* Use any extra vaccine that can easily be drawn into a syringe from one vial to meet the 0.5 ml dose requirement.
* Enter all vaccine doses administered into the MIIS.

**Vaccine Ordering Process**

* At this time, the DPH Vaccine Unit will order from CDC on behalf of 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 through MIIS.
* Providers who receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine will receive an ancillary kit. Each kit supports administration of 100 doses.
* Providers who receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will receive a combination ancillary and mixing kit. Each kit supports the administration of 975 doses. Providers who 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.

**Resources**

* [Information for providers](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-information-for-providers) to assist in your vaccination efforts throughout the pandemic.
* [Vaccine provider FAQ](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions-vaccine-providers) that covers distribution, administration, safety, vaccinating healthcare providers, storage, and MIIS registration, enrollment, and training.
* Answers to [commonly asked questions](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions-vaccine-providers) from the general public
* 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.
  + 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.
* Moderna COVID-19 vaccine [website](http://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**

* **Update on Allergic Reactions, Contraindications, and Precautions.**  CDC [recorded webinar](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_123020.asp).
* **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.
* DPH strongly encourages the primary and back-up vaccine coordinators at each site and providers administering COVID-19 vaccine to complete the trainings in vaccine storage and handling and administration found at [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Providers | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-information-for-providers#storage-and-handling-).

**Where to go when you have questions about COVID-19 vaccination**

* **Vaccine Unit** ([dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@mass.gov))
* Enrollment into MCVP
* Vaccine storage and handling
* Vaccine shipments, inventory
* Number of doses allocated
* Vaccine transfer
* Vaccine wastage/expiration
* **MIIS** ([miishelpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:miishelpdesk@mass.gov))
  + MIIS registration/onboarding
  + How to log in to the MIIS
  + How to report vaccines to the MIIS
  + Running reports in the MIIS
  + Adding users/sites to the MIIS
  + Assistance with MIIS functionality
* **COVID-19 email box** ([COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov))
* Who can vaccinate
* Who can get vaccine
* Vaccine prioritization
* Where and how to get vaccinated