

**BULLETIN**

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

**Week of 2/16/2022**

**LATEST NUMBERS**

* As of 2/16/2022 **5,259,939** 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.
* A booster dose for **immunocompetent** persons **ages 12 years and older**
* **At least 5 months** after completion of an **mRNA** vaccine primary series.
* **At least 2 months** after completion of a **Janssen/J&J** primary dose.
* mRNA COVID19 vaccines are preferred
* **Moderately to severely immunocompromised** ages 5 and older – see below for new details

**WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK**

**New/UPDATE**: **COVID-19 vaccine for the 6 months through 4-year-old population delayed**.

On Friday February 11, Pfizer-BioNTech said it is postponing its rolling application to the FDA to expand the use of its two-dose Covid-19 vaccine for children ages 6 months to 4 years. The move means that vaccines for this age group will not be available in the coming weeks. Pfizer said that it will wait for its data on a three-dose series of the vaccine, because it believes three doses "may provide a higher level of protection in this age group." Data on the third dose is expected in early April, the company said.

**New The Interim Clinical Considerations were updated Friday February 11**

Updates include:

* Updated guidance for moderately or severely immunocompromised people
  + Clarification of existing recommendation to receive a 3-dose mRNA vaccine primary series followed by a booster dose for a total of 4 doses
  + New guidance to shorten the interval between completion of the mRNA vaccine primary series and the booster dose to at least 3 months (instead of 5 months)
  + New guidance for those who received the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine primary series to receive an additional dose and a booster dose, for a total of 3 doses to be up to date
* Updated guidance that it is no longer necessary to delay COVID-19 vaccination following receipt of monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma
* Updated guidance on receiving a booster dose if vaccinated outside the United States

**New/Updated COVID-19 vaccine formulations currently approved or authorized in the United States**

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**New/Updated COVID-19 vaccination schedule for the general population**

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**New/Updated** **COVID-19 vaccination schedule for** [**moderately or severely** **immunocompromised**](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#vaccination-people-immunocompromised) persons **ages 5 years and older**

People with immunocompromising conditions or people who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies are at increased risk for severe COVID-19. Because the immune response following COVID-19 vaccination may differ in moderately or severely immunocompromised people, specific guidance for this population is provided. **Use of mRNA vaccines is preferred.**

**Primary series for people with moderate or severe immunocompromise**

**mRNA COVID-19 vaccines**

A **3-dose primary series** is recommended for people ages 5 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised **at the time of vaccination** (see Clinical Considerations, [Table 3](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#table-03), below). The same mRNA vaccine product should be used for all doses of the primary series.

**Janssen/J&J COVID-19 Vaccine**

A **primary Janssen/J&J vaccine dose** is recommended for people ages 18 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, followed by a **second (additional) dose** **using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine** at least 4 weeks later (see Clinical Considerations, [Appendix B](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#appendix-b) for additional information). If Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is used for the second dose, administer a 100 mcg (0.5 ml) dose.

**Booster doses for people with moderate or severe immunocompromise**

Booster doses are recommended for people 12 years of age and older after completion of primary vaccination.

**mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary series**

A single booster dose is recommended at least 3 months after the third dose in the primary series, **for a total of four doses**, preferably with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. If Moderna vaccine is used for the booster dose, a 50 mcg (0.25 mL) dose should be used.

**Janssen/J&J COVID-19 primary vaccination**

A single booster dose is recommended at least **2 months** after the 2nd (additional) dose, for a total of **3 doses** (1 Janssen/J&Jvaccine dose followed by 1 additional mRNA vaccine dose, then 1 booster dose). mRNA vaccines are preferred for the booster dose. If the Moderna vaccine is used for the booster dose, a 50 mcg (0.25 ml) dose should be used.

**Special situation**: Many recipients of Janssen/J&J COVID-19 Vaccine may have already received a booster dose (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna [50 mcg, 0.25 ml], or Janssen vaccine), without having had the 2nd (additional) mRNA vaccine dose. In this situation, regardless of type and timing of vaccine received as the 2nd dose, administer a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or a Moderna vaccine (100 mcg [0.5 mL]) as the 3rd dose at least 2 months after dose 2. See Clinical Considerations [Appendix B](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#appendix-b) for additional dose information for Janssen/J&JCOVID-19 Vaccine recipients.

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**New People who received COVID-19 vaccine outside the United States**

* Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) and EUI Factsheets are now available for Pfizer and Moderna on the [EUI](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/index.html) tab
* [Appendix E](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#appendix-e) of the Clinical Considerations also has extensive details and tables describing different scenarios and how to proceed

**New People who received passive antibody products**

People who previously received antibody products (anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma) as part of COVID-19 treatment, post-exposure prophylaxis, or pre-exposure prophylaxis can be vaccinated at any time; COVID-19 vaccination does not need to be delayed following receipt of monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma.

Although some reduction in vaccine-induced antibody titerswas observed in people who previously received antibody products, the clinical significance of this reduction is unknown, and the balance of benefits vs. risks favors proceeding with vaccination even considering the possibility of diminished vaccine effectiveness in this situation.

However, in people who previously received a COVID-19 vaccine, administration of tixagevimab/cilgavimab (EVUSHELD™) for pre-exposure prophylaxis should be deferred for at least two weeks after vaccination, per the product [EUA](https://www.fda.gov/media/154701/download) **.**

**Reminder Moderna/Spikevax** [**approved by FDA**](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-takes-key-action-approving-second-covid-19-vaccine) **on January 31, and subsequently recommended by ACIP and** [**endorsed**](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/acip-moderna-vote.html) **by CDC on February 4.** The vaccine has been known as the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine; the approved vaccine will be marketed as Spikevax. Spikevax is approved for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older.

[Moderna EUA fact sheets](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/spikevax-and-moderna-covid-19-vaccine) have been updated to reflect this change.

**Reminder Watch for Expired Vaccine**

Providers should make it a practice to regularly check inventory for expired vaccine and immediately remove expired inventory to prevent it from being administered.

**Vaccine Expiration Date Lookup & Reference Information:**

* [Expiry Information for Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/Expiry*20Document_December*202021.pdf__;JSU!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGxVYV8BHtqcZ60FKi8HB3uTYxz3dJj1bcC-2OzWyfsACxpCz6nJTr6JC4lms1wWS7-C6ME$)
* [Moderna Vial Expiration Date Look-up Tool](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup*vialLookUpTool__;Iw!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGxVYV8BHtqcZ60FKi8HB3uTYxz3dJj1bcC-2OzWyfsACxpCz6nJTr6JC4lms1wWZFJCEE0$)
* [J&J Expiration Date Lookup Tool](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/vaxcheck.jnj/__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!yGxVYV8BHtqcZ60FKi8HB3uTYxz3dJj1bcC-2OzWyfsACxpCz6nJTr6JC4lms1wWIR4woRQ$)

**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 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/J&J, HCP: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download>
* Janssen/J&J, Recipient: <https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>

**Reminder EUI Fact Sheets**

CDC has issued EUI for use of the COVID-19 vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna for primary, additional, and/or booster doses in certain individuals. The EUI are necessary because these uses extend beyond their FDA-approved labeling. The EUI and CDC’s clinical guidance help to ensure these individuals can get primary, additional, and/or booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer or Moderna so they can be better protected against COVID-19. The EUI are currently issued only for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines since EUI can only apply to FDA-approved medical products.

* Pfizer, HCP: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/pfizer-HCP.pdf>
* Pfizer, Recipient: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/Pfizer-Caregiver.pdf>
* Moderna, HCP: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/Moderna-HCP.pdf>
* Moderna, Recipient: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/downloads/Moderna-Caregiver.pdf>

**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 mobile 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, the Apple Wallet or Google Pay through a 3rd party application, Common Health. (<https://www.commonhealth.org/smart-health-cards>). 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 vaccine 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 mobile 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.

**Reminder v-safe After Vaccination Health Checker**

Encourage everyone to enroll in v-safe!

v-safe provides personalized and confidential health check-ins via text messages and web surveys so you can quickly and easily share with CDC how you, or your dependent, feel after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. This information helps CDC monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in near real time.

* You need a smartphone and your COVID19 vaccination record to [enroll](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/register-for-v-safe.html)
* Available in [multiple languages](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe/printresources.html#Information) including English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese

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**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 CDC’s Pregnancy and the COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions** has been updated and is [now available in 12 languages.](https://edit.mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax-campaign-materials-for-parents-and-pregnant-people#printable-flyers-)

**Reminder 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 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.

**Recent CDC MMWRs**

**February 11, 2022 (EARLY RELEASE)**

* [Safety Monitoring of COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses Among Adults — United States, September 22, 2021–February 6, 2022](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7107e1.htm?s_cid=mm7107e1_w)
* [Waning 2-Dose and 3-Dose Effectiveness of mRNA Vaccines Against COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department and Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Adults During Periods of Delta and Omicron Variant Predominance — VISION Network, 10 States, August 2021–January 2022](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7107e2.htm?s_cid=mm7107e2_w)

**February 11, 2022**

* [Genomic Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 Variants: Predominance of the Delta (B.1.617.2) and Omicron (B.1.1.529) Variants — United States, June 2021–January 2022](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106a4.htm?s_cid=mm7106a4_w)
* [Effectiveness of Face Mask or Respirator Use in Indoor Public Settings for Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Infection — California, February–December 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm?s_cid=mm7106e1_w)
* [Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes Among Adults Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection During Periods of B.1.617.2 (Delta) and B.1.1.529 (Omicron) Variant Predominance — One Hospital, California, July 15–September 23, 2021, and December 21, 2021–January 27, 2022](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e2.htm?s_cid=mm7106e2_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.
* **New** COVID-19 Vaccine Training and Education Resources for Providers: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-training-and-education-resources-for-providers>

**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)