

**BULLETIN**

**What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 3/21/21**

**Latest Numbers**

* As of 3/21, 3,232,930 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 2,919,765 doses (90.3%) have been administered.
* Over 1 million people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated.

**Who to Vaccinate this Week**

* New Governor Baker has announced the dates that all remaining individuals and certain worker groups will be eligible for a vaccine.
* March 22: Individuals 60+ and [certain workers](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-certain-workers---unpublished-0?auHash=bfk-H3eJd2Ajj7JmJ9faBIicK7ku84GMXMpsMGjvNtc)
* April 5: Individuals 55+ and individuals with one [certain medical condition](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-individuals-with-certain-medical-conditions?n)
* April 19: General public ages 16 years of age and older
* Updated Provider sites may request vaccine for health care workers, first responders, congregate care settings, home-based health care workers, those 60 years of age or older, those with 2+ certain medical conditions, those residing in low-income and affordable senior housing, childcare workers, K-12 educators and staff, and [certain workers](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-certain-workers---unpublished-0?auHash=bfk-H3eJd2Ajj7JmJ9faBIicK7ku84GMXMpsMGjvNtc).
* Updated Sites should maintain wait lists of eligible individuals they can call if they have extra vaccine they can administer by the end of the day to prevent wastage. Last minute available appointments are not to be posted on social media. Individuals must be contacted by telephone.

**What to Know this Week**

* **New *Vaccine Equity Initiative*** On 3/17, the Administration announced the release of $27.4 million in federal funds to increase trust, vaccine acceptance and administration rates as part of the Administration’s Vaccine Equity Initiative and to meet the needs of priority populations. Recognizing equity as a critical component of the state’s vaccine distribution plan, the Department of Public Health is working closely with of the 20 hardest hit communities in Massachusetts as they identify their community needs, further building on existing support. **For more information, read the** [press release](https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-vaccine-timeline-for-all-residents-provides-weekly-dose-updates-274-million-in-federal-funding-for-vaccine-equity-initiative) **or visit the** [COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Initiative website.](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-equity-initiative)
* **New *Guidelines to avoid having to cancel scheduled COVID-19 vaccination appointments:*** 
  + **If your vaccine allocation is less than the total you requested for 1st and 2nd doses, use the vaccine received to first meet all your 2nd dose commitments. After meeting your 2nd dose commitments, any remaining vaccine may be used for first doses.**
  + **Do not schedule appointments for 1st doses until you have received confirmation of the number of doses you have been allocated and you know that all your 2nd dose commitments will be met.**
  + **Timing of vaccine shipments can vary. Only schedule appointments for Monday – Wednesday for administration of vaccine you already have in inventory.**
  + **Use this guidance for ordering and scheduling 2nd doses:** [Timeline for requesting second doses PDF](https://www.mass.gov/doc/timeline-for-requesting-second-doses/download) | [Doc](https://www.mass.gov/doc/timeline-for-requesting-second-doses-accessible/download) | [Second Dose Calculator](https://www.mass.gov/doc/second-dose-calculator/download). 2nd doses must be requested through the weekly MCVP survey.
  + Please also review [this document](https://www.mass.gov/doc/pfizer-and-moderna-second-dose-scheduling/download) for key messages about scheduling 2nd doses of Pfizer and Moderna. Every effort should be made to schedule 2nd dose appointments at the time of the 1st appointment.
* New ***Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People:*** Review [new guidance](https://www.mass.gov/guidance/guidance-for-people-who-are-fully-vaccinated-against-covid-19) for people in Massachusetts who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This guidance is based on CDC’s [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html).
* New ***COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for MCVP Providers****:* This [updated guidance](https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-vaccine-guidance-for-vaccine-providers/download) provides information on becoming a COVID-19 vaccine provider, information about each COVID-19 vaccine product, requesting vaccine and reporting to the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), storage and handling, and clinical considerations.
* New ***Updated Medicare payment rates for administration of COVID-19 vaccines:*** Effective 3/15/21, the new Medicare payment rate for administering a COVID-19 vaccine will be approximately $40 for each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. For more information, see [Medicare COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment | CMS](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cms.gov/medicare/covid-19/medicare-covid-19-vaccine-shot-payment__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!2Uv6dGJ8pBD96ID3zLy60qpbc9rQFdesYQxpoLYa8V_sYMFi_df2amm1-Axt2lPnGliF-tg$).
* New ***Patient Safety Checklist for COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations:*** This [checklist](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/patient-safety-checklist-508.pdf) includes recommended practices that are critical to ensure vaccine recipient safety. Use this checklist before hosting a vaccination clinic to assess clinic staff’s competency in each recommended practice.

# New *USP COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit.* [Download the latest toolkit](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://go.usp.org/e/323321/covid-vaccine-handling/4jcqlt/338978268?h=br8A31s9bVk84Pgc4BP45yLltadfxpWawPFAZY2YyGY__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1_WOouIe4uSLwN-15bArz4hsEbME33w1VoQbXlYNrOdjYa2xBjYMPIOxFJ6CMbl9feZ3aA$). USP has also published the following informational handouts to share in your practice setting to help address operational gaps in handling COVID-19 vaccines:

* [Maximizing Doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://go.usp.org/e/323321/r-biontech-covid19-vaccine-pdf/4jcqlw/338978268?h=br8A31s9bVk84Pgc4BP45yLltadfxpWawPFAZY2YyGY__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1_WOouIe4uSLwN-15bArz4hsEbME33w1VoQbXlYNrOdjYa2xBjYMPIOxFJ6CMbmuqCXlkw$) – provides strategies for maximizing doses, such as optimizing vial pressure and reducing vial leakage.
* [Transporting COVID-19 Vaccines Off-Site](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://go.usp.org/e/323321/g-covid19-vaccines-offsite-pdf/4jcqly/338978268?h=br8A31s9bVk84Pgc4BP45yLltadfxpWawPFAZY2YyGY__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1_WOouIe4uSLwN-15bArz4hsEbME33w1VoQbXlYNrOdjYa2xBjYMPIOxFJ6CMbkS2yR2Kg$) – includes an at-a-glance chart of temperature and time considerations for transport of COVID-19 vaccines to help preserve quality.
* [Beyond-use Date in Vial or Syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://go.usp.org/e/323321/-beyond-use-date-factsheet-pdf/4jcqm1/338978268?h=br8A31s9bVk84Pgc4BP45yLltadfxpWawPFAZY2YyGY__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1_WOouIe4uSLwN-15bArz4hsEbME33w1VoQbXlYNrOdjYa2xBjYMPIOxFJ6CMbnm9FVrnw$) – includes an at-a-glance chart of beyond-use dates for diluted or punctured vials, as applicable, and pre-drawn syringes.
* New ***Reminder to monitor storage units:*** Monitor storage units with COVID-19 vaccine closely. If your freezer has a defrost cycle that enters refrigerated range, vaccine may begin to thaw. Once COVID-19 vaccine has begun thawing, it cannot be refrozen. As a reminder, sites should be using a digital data logger to monitor storage units storing COVID-19 vaccine. For questions about storage and handling, please contact the manufacturers:
* [Pfizer](https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com): [1-800-438-1985](tel:1-800-829-2619)
* [Moderna](https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/): [1-866-663-3762](file:///C:\Users\kcranston\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\F6Z30CHK\1-866-663-3762)
* [Janssen/J&J](https://www.janssencovid19vaccine.com/hcp/storage-dosing-administration.html): 1-800-565-4008
* New ***Vaccine expiration:*** Reminder that some lots of COVID-19 vaccine may be expiring. Please make sure to check expiration and beyond use dates for COVID-19 vaccine.
  + Pfizer: Expiration date can be found on packaging
  + Moderna: Expiration date can be found by using QR code or [www.cvdvaccine.com](http://www.cvdvaccine.com)
  + Janssen/J&J: Expiration date can be found by using QR code on packaging or [www.janssencovid19vaccine.com](http://www.janssencovid19vaccine.com)
* ***Availability of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:***In Massachusetts there was a very limited initial allocation of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine from the federal government that was allocated to a select group of providers. It is not likely that additional doses will be available until later in March. Once doses become more widely available, information on which sites will have access to the Janssen vaccine will be shared. The Janssen EUA fact sheets for providers and recipients and other information about the Janssen vaccine can be found [here](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine).
* ***CDC Prevaccination Checklist:*** This [screeningform](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form.pdf) has been updated and should be used for all three currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines.
* ***COVID-19 vaccine allocation:*** The federal government is providing insufficient supplies to meet the demand of our provider community and or our residents. Therefore, the vaccine distribution process has been streamlined with first dose requests prioritized for:
  + The federal pharmacy program that supports onsite vaccination clinics at long term care facilities and congregate care programs. The skilled nursing facility portion of this program has ended. The congregate care part will end no later than 4/15;
  + Congregate care programs, including homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and state operated and financed group homes not covered by the federal pharmacy program and their vaccinating provider partners;
  + Community Health Centers who meet the administration threshold of 65%;
  + Providers listed on the state’s website: mass.gov/vaccine, offering vaccination appointments to all eligible residents (retail pharmacy, mass vaccination sites, regional collaborations, open pod provider or community operated clinics);
  + Local Boards of Health vaccinating low income or affordable public or private senior housing properties or homebound individuals;
  + Local Boards of Health in identified disproportionately impacted communities; and
  + Health systems providing vaccine to their patient panels.

A major factor in determining a provider’s (except community health centers’) allocation is ability to maintain a threshold of 85% for vaccine usage. This is calculated by dividing the cumulative number of doses received by the number of doses administered. Another factor in determining a provider’s allocation is their ability to administer all doses received within 10 days of receipt.

**Resources & Learning Opportunities**

* New Updated [FAQ for MCVP Providers](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions-vaccine-providers)
* NewCDC COCA Call: What Clinicians Need to Know About the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine[Recording and slides](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_030221.asp)
* New Resources for recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis
  + Recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis [PDF](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/recognizing-responding-to-anaphylaxis-508.pdf)
  + Anaphylaxis [webpage](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/managing-anaphylaxis.html) [PDF](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/IntermConsid-Anaphylaxis-covid19-vaccine-sites.pdf)
  + Recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis [PDF](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/recognizing-responding-to-anaphylaxis-508.pdf)
* New Recent updates to the CDC Communication and Education Products
  + [Janssen](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!0AyzNrAjaeKsW0jegzkb_jg8fYmB3s2cSMcDMs4OmLPrKp6MAtQAGyiNksiMYptokS8$) vaccine information
  + [What to Do if You Have an Allergic Reaction After Getting A COVID-19 Vaccine](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!0AyzNrAjaeKsW0jegzkb_jg8fYmB3s2cSMcDMs4OmLPrKp6MAtQAGyiNksiMEbfn_AM$)
  + [Customizable COVID-19 Vaccine Content for Community-Based Organizations](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/cbo-newsletters.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!0AyzNrAjaeKsW0jegzkb_jg8fYmB3s2cSMcDMs4OmLPrKp6MAtQAGyiNksiM_RNZ30c$)
  + [Customizable COVID-19 Vaccine Content for Essential Workers](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/essential-workers/newsletters.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!0AyzNrAjaeKsW0jegzkb_jg8fYmB3s2cSMcDMs4OmLPrKp6MAtQAGyiNksiMDYgUXZo$)
  + [COVID-19 Vaccines for Teachers, School Staff, and Childcare Workers | CDC](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups/teachers-childcare.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!0AyzNrAjaeKsW0jegzkb_jg8fYmB3s2cSMcDMs4OmLPrKp6MAtQAGyiNksiMcpc_jtk$)
* COVID-19 Vaccine Live Q&A webinar to supplement the MDPH [training modules](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvp-overview#storage-and-handling-). 3/22 from 1-2 pm. Register here: [Registration (gotowebinar.com)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/register.gotowebinar.com/register/8745888634358851852__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!zTKtYwAPtLlpChzw0pq80-nK_hrR7vlgZWrbU3rE6GzH-dini6dG8VfIYSl32X3W8VB8i38p-g$)
* CDC [COVID-19 vaccine provider training](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training.html)
* MCVP [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ for the public](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions)
* Download Massachusetts [COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Outreach Materials](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-covid-19-vaccine-education-and-outreach-materials)
* Visit [www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineProviders](http://www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineProviders) for [vaccine provider FAQ](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions-vaccine-providers); detailed [guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvp-guidance-for-healthcare-providers-and) on vaccine management and administration; and CDC and FDA [resources](https://www.mass.gov/lists/additional-covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-providers) such as v-safe.
* [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.

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

**Important:** Calls about vaccine viability, damage, or packing slip discrepancies must reach McKesson (for Moderna and Janssen vaccine) or Pfizer (for Pfizer vaccine) the same day the shipment arrived at the office as documented by the carrier.

* **Pfizer vaccine shipment has a problem:**
* Pfizer Customer Service: 800-666-7248, Email: [cvgovernment@pfizer.com](mailto:cvgovernment@pfizer.com)
* **Moderna or Janssen vaccine shipment has a problem:**
* Phone: 833-272-6635 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. ET
* Email (only send after hours):[COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com](mailto:COVIDVaccineSupport@McKesson.com)
* **Ancillary kit has a problem:**
* McKesson Customer Service: 833-272-6634, Email: [SNSSupport@McKesson.com](mailto:SNSSupport@McKesson.com)
* **For clinical questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine** ([https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/cdc-info__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!zTKtYwAPtLlpChzw0pq80-nK_hrR7vlgZWrbU3rE6GzH-dini6dG8VfIYSl32X3W8VDDnupxKQ$))
* Call 1-800-232-4636 or email using the [CDC-Info web form](https://wwwn.cdc.gov/dcs/ContactUs/Form)
* **Vaccine Unit** ([dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us%20v))
* Enrollment into MCVP
* Vaccine storage and handling and transfer
* Vaccine shipments, inventory, and number of doses allocated
* Vaccine wastage/expiration
* **MIIS** ([miishelpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:miishelpdesk@mass.gov)) Due to the volume of inquiries, it is taking 2-3 business days for the Help Desk to respond. Answers to most questions can be found at the [MIIS Resource Center](https://www.miisresourcecenter.com/).
* MIIS registration/onboarding
* How to log in to the MIIS and report vaccines to the MIIS
* Running reports in the MIIS
* Adding users/sites to the MIIS
* **COVID-19 email box** ([COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov))
  + Who can get vaccine / vaccine prioritization
  + Where and how to get vaccinated