

**BULLETIN**

**What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 4/17/21**

**Important Note about the Bulletin**

In addition to providers currently receiving vaccine, the distribution list for this weekly COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Bulletin also includes providers and others who may not yet be receiving vaccine at this time. We are sending this Bulletin for the awareness for all.

**Latest Numbers**

* As of 4/16, 5,784,700 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have shipped to Massachusetts, and 4,921,580 doses (85.1%) have been administered.

**Who to Vaccinate this Week**

* Beginning Monday, April 19, anyone age 16 and older who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts will be eligible for a vaccine.
* Sites should maintain wait lists of individuals they can call if they have extra vaccine they can administer by the end of the day to prevent wastage.

**What to Know this Week**

* New ***Pausing use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine***: On 4/13, the FDA and CDC recommended a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine out of an abundance of caution, after 6 people who received the vaccine developed a rare but serious type of blood clot. DPH has notified all Massachusetts providers to pause administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine until federal health experts investigate this matter. If you have Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine on hand, please immediately implement the following CDC operational guidance until further notice:
  + Mark any Janssen/J&J vaccine in your inventory “Do not use. Awaiting guidance.”
  + Continue to store the vaccine in the refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F).
  + Follow [vaccine storage practices](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/downloads/janssen-storage-handling-summary.pdf__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xp-TWJcm3PaBGwAOwmaRehVRfj3Wz5UJdVQsMskW-Gs6q-LQwKZKbZa3170dHHoy2ja2aP8$) and continue to monitor and document storage unit temperatures.
* New ***Pfizer EUA fact sheets updated 4/6/21:***
  + [Pfizer EUA Fact Sheet for Providers](https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download)
  + [Pfizer EUA Fat Sheet for Vaccine Recipients](https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download)
* New ***Moderna EUA fact sheets updated 3/31/21:*** Key updates to the [EUA factsheet for healthcare providers](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.fda.gov/media/144637/download__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xrGjW8F0fjNBInz_N-wx6OUkjMv_ZUOAmPdroaQ_A-1UA4PXOzxKn8JEnumAlyvwKRY$) include:
  + *Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Vials Contain 10 – 11 Doses*
  + It is possible to extract 11 doses using low dead-volume (LDV) needles/syringes.
  + Moderna ancillary supply kits include enough supplies to administer 10 doses per vial. Moderna kits do NOT contain low dead-volume needles/syringes.
  + Given the limited supply of LDV syringes, sites should still plan to reliably extract 10 doses. The 11th dose does not count as waste.
  + Do NOT “borrow” low dead-volume needles/syringes from Pfizer kits.
  + Needles/syringes from the provider’s supply used to withdraw an 11th dose cannot be replaced.
  + *Moderna Vaccine Storage*
* Unpunctured vials – Moderna vials can now be stored frozen between -50° to -15°C (-58° to 5°F). This is a new, wider temperature range that is consistent with other recommended vaccines stored in the freezer.
* Vials may be stored between 8° to 25°C (46° to 77°F) for a total of 24 hours. This is an increase from 12 hours to 24 hours.
* Unchanged: Vials may be stored refrigerated between 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to 30 days prior to first use.
* Punctured vials – After the first dose has been withdrawn, the vial can be held between 2° to 25°C (36° to 77°F) for up to 12 hours. Vials should be discarded 12 hours after the first puncture. This is an increase from 6 hours.
* USP’s factsheet on [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/4n9td8/347868535?h=TngChxsHDQpNq_-HYE_VG0F2XYLbgIjl_JHNVKlc3-k__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1T-kOHfFl-GXqWyqBNP2rK6Kb8MuLryiOdOv2oYovuy5-85ZP_BHwBtaGngrClWn828ejw$) reflects the changes in the Moderna beyond use dates.
* Use the Moderna [Temperature Excursion Tool](https://tools.modernamedinfo.com/excursion/) to see what to do with vials that may have experienced a temperature excursion prior to administering.

# New *How and where to refer patients for COVID-19 vaccine.* Even if you are not administering COVID-19 vaccine, as your patients’ most-trusted source of information on vaccines, you play a critical role in helping your patients understand the importance of COVID-19 vaccination. Key messaging includes helping your patients understand that all three COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and they all prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death. To help you with these conversations, please see these resources:

# [Making a Strong Recommendation for COVID-19 Vaccination](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/engaging-patients.html.)

# [Trust the Facts, Get the Vax campaign materials](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax.) in multiple languages.

# [COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations.) to help your patients find out where to get vaccinated.

* New ***Revised*** ***COVID-19 Vaccine Management Standard Operating Procedure Template & Redistribution Guidance***: Revised documents are posted on the [mass.gov provider page](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvp-guidance-for-vaccine-providers-and-organizations#guidance-on-covid-19-vaccine-management-and-administration-for-vaccine-providers-).
* New ***Identification and health insurance are not required for COVID-19 vaccination:***Please ensure that all signage and other messaging on site makes it clear that an ID and insurance card are not required for vaccination.
* New ***Provider sites are responsible for informing patients about the MIIS and for managing data sharing***: This 10 minute [MIIS Kick Off Video](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/MIIS%20documents%20OS%20/Onboarding%20with%20the%20MIIS_Direct%20Data%20Entry/Onboarding%20with%20the%20MIIS_Direct%20Data%20Entry/Onboarding%20with%20the%20MIIS_Direct%20Data%20Entry_player.html) explains the duty to inform and data sharing.
  + The following materials may also help sites comply: [MIIS Fact Sheets](https://miisresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterMIISMaterialsFactSheets), [MIIS Posters](https://miisresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterMIISMaterialsPosters), [MIIS Language Templates](https://miisresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterMIISMaterialsSampleLanguageTemplate), [MIIS Sample Workflow for Duty to Inform and Data Sharing](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/SampleWorkflow/SampleWorkflow.pdf).
  + The [Data Sharing Mini Guide](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Data%20Sharing%20in%20the%20MIIS_2018_Mini%20Guide.pdf) provides step-by-step instructions for managing data sharing in the MIIS. Read the [MIIS legislation](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter111/Section24M) to ensure your organization understands all its responsibilities. Contact the [miishelpdesk@mass.gov](mailto:miishelpdesk@mass.gov) with any questions.
* New ***Newly expanded Vaccine Equity Initiative website:*** The [Vaccine Equity Initiative website](https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine-equity-20-communities-initiative) includes community-specific pages with breakdowns of grants, funding, and resources such as direct assistance with vaccine access, customized data, and more.
* ***Ensure patient safety at vaccination clinics***: Use the [CDC COVID-19 Patient Safety Checklist for Vaccination Clinics](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/patient-safety-checklist-508.pdf) to ensure your clinic is following the best practices for patient safety and vaccine handling and administration.
* ***Ensure vaccinators have the following at their station:*** 1) Standing Orders, 2) Prevaccination Checklist (screening form), 3) Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summary, and 4) [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals.](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/covid19-vaccine-quick-reference-guide-2pages.pdf) The product-specific Standing Orders and Vaccine Preparation and Administration Summaries, as well as the Prevaccination Checklist (in English and 6 additional languages), can be found under the Administration Resources section of each product page ([Pfizer](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h431e7a5b*2C13c651c5*2C13c65470&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM54128&ACSTrackingLabel=New*20Translations*20of*20the*20Prevaccination*20Checklist*20Available&s=AtmQoNu5ibVR2xGqe5JAUKp3g8p4w88kH4PFmLDJdRs__;JSUlJSUlJSU!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wSQhEF62GCBiU6w-P_OCjijlnwHuPGvp5MQlB_bJ_xcJ4t7UOdQZzARMIOKdEOqvv4r73g$), [Moderna](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h431e7a5b*2C13c651c5*2C13c65471&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM54128&ACSTrackingLabel=New*20Translations*20of*20the*20Prevaccination*20Checklist*20Available&s=SD2pQFIWuEPZGoUMz5rF6oy8gvNOVNwkh81cu7tTNuA__;JSUlJSUlJSU!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wSQhEF62GCBiU6w-P_OCjijlnwHuPGvp5MQlB_bJ_xcJ4t7UOdQZzARMIOKdEOpxsFBHkg$), and [Janssen/J&J](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h431e7a5b*2C13c651c5*2C13c65472&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM54128&ACSTrackingLabel=New*20Translations*20of*20the*20Prevaccination*20Checklist*20Available&s=OcMvUStBFgqBCNi-gEhtyfq4DV-XmsMefruHqxThPOo__;JSUlJSUlJSU!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wSQhEF62GCBiU6w-P_OCjijlnwHuPGvp5MQlB_bJ_xcJ4t7UOdQZzARMIOKdEOr9GRFSTQ$)). These pages also have product-specific training modules.
* ***Assess staff and volunteer competencies:*** CDC and IAC have tools for self-assessment and supervisor review of skills, techniques, and procedures.
* [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Competency Assessment Form](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/competencies-screening-checklist.pdf)
* [IAC Skills Checklist for Vaccine Administration](https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p7010.pdf)
* ***Maximize doses per vial of Pfizer vaccine***: This informational [USP video](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/go.usp.org/e/323321/izer-covid19-vaccine-doses-mp4/4lgbll/344973795?h=WLf4Ig8hNOsBVSUUijxfBzqfp_8b3d3dJOJcxmRfhKo__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wH-PlSmnPwJQWEYF3hyIBIL4Rbj-WwSLu6Rk1k3L2nNVQqxH1Zx7SoHY1PcSyzgxxlR6dA$) helps healthcare providers maximize doses per vial of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.
* ***Return Pfizer thermal shipping containers:*** Shipping containers may be used as temporary storage of Pfizer vaccine for up to 30 days from delivery. After use, [follow these instructions](https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/Return%20Instructions.pdf) to return the container, including the temperature-monitoring device, to the supplier.
* ***Unused ancillary kit supplies:*** Providers with excess unused ancillary kit supplies should contact the [DPH Vaccine Unit](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us) with ‘Excess ancillary kit supplies’ in the subject line.

**Resources & Learning Opportunities**

* CDC is offering a series of brief (15-20 minute) webinars with CE credit:
  + [Preventing Vaccine Administration Errors: A Primer for Healthcare Workers](https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/videos/va.asp)
  + [A Primer for Healthcare Workers on Storing and Transporting Vaccines](https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/videos/sh.asp)
* [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for MCVP Providers](https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-vaccine-guidance-for-vaccine-providers/download): information on becoming a COVID-19 vaccine provider, information about each COVID-19 vaccine product, requesting vaccine and reporting to the MIIS, storage and handling, clinical considerations, and who to contact with questions.
* [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html)
* CDC [Interim Clinical Considerations](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h420174ea*2C13a7ec56*2C13a7ff27&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM53231&ACSTrackingLabel=New*20Reference*20Tools*20Are*20Available*21&s=XjVh3sp9GBPmLFeUueY4ZoSl5MbuJHnfVEVaD-Yn4Lg__;JSUlJSUlJQ!!CUhgQOZqV7M!z-3eZ1SXZe7M6M9jYwrHLPL6EjVoVs_9uHNzBkgWwXlt5raaWGYiDjhyZbLDi1BppPiviw$) reference materials:
* [Interim Clinical Consideration Summary](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h420174ea*2C13a7ec56*2C13a7ff28&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM53231&ACSTrackingLabel=New*20Reference*20Tools*20Are*20Available*21&s=jYrjTOYL6bSlbsWvi9iAAXJ3sZPOTWLi0wfaFH8rF1M__;JSUlJSUlJQ!!CUhgQOZqV7M!z-3eZ1SXZe7M6M9jYwrHLPL6EjVoVs_9uHNzBkgWwXlt5raaWGYiDjhyZbLDi1ASOHJE3w$)
* [Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h420174ea*2C13a7ec56*2C13a7ff29&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM53231&ACSTrackingLabel=New*20Reference*20Tools*20Are*20Available*21&s=iVGpIXS8vC-FKKQl4H7Jq7TCaD2SMaQMNIkvrDE_h_Q__;JSUlJSUlJQ!!CUhgQOZqV7M!z-3eZ1SXZe7M6M9jYwrHLPL6EjVoVs_9uHNzBkgWwXlt5raaWGYiDjhyZbLDi1CuyLs9YA$) table

# 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$)

# [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$)

* [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$)
* [Beyond-use Date in Vial or Syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://go.usp.org/e/323321/-beyond-use-date-factsheet-pdf/4jcqm1/338978268?h=br8A31s9bVk84Pgc4BP45yLltadfxpWawPFAZY2YyGY__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1_WOouIe4uSLwN-15bArz4hsEbME33w1VoQbXlYNrOdjYa2xBjYMPIOxFJ6CMbnm9FVrnw$)