

**BULLETIN**

**What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 5/7/21**

**Latest Numbers**

* As of 5/7, 2,835,762 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 3,758,700 have received one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

**Who to Vaccinate this Week**

* Anyone age 16 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.
* 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 *How to talk to your patients about COVID-19 vaccination*: Healthcare professionals are often the most trusted source of information on vaccines. Your answers to your patients’ questions matter and will help them make an informed decision about getting a COVID-19 vaccination. Review these [five tips](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/engaging-patients.html) for talking with your patients about COVID-19 vaccination. The following resources may also be helpful:

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

# [Vaccine education and outreach materials](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-covid-19-vaccine-education-and-outreach-materials) 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 *People vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines not authorized in the U.S.*: No data are available on the safety or efficacy of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized in the United States after receipt of a non-FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. However, in some circumstances people who received a COVID-19 vaccine not currently authorized in the United States may be offered revaccination with an FDA-authorized vaccine. Please visit [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html) for more information.

## New *Updated CDC Interim Clinical Considerations:* The [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html) were revised 4/27/21:

* + New section on considerations for use of the Janssen vaccine in certain populations.
  + Requirements to be considered fully vaccinated added to vaccine administration and interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products.
  + New section added for people vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines not authorized in the United States.
  + Clarification on COVID-19 vaccination and SARS-CoV-2 infection. People with prolonged post-COVID-19 symptoms should be offered COVID-19 vaccination.
  + New section added on antiviral therapy and COVID-19 vaccination.
  + How to get a consultation from the [Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment COVID Vax](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/cisa/index.html) Project added to considerations for vaccination of people with medical conditions.
  + Updated recommendations for vaccination of pregnant or lactating people.
  + Updated recommendations for vaccination of children and adolescents.
  + Updated information related to axillary lymphadenopathy added to patient counseling for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.
  + Updated information on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine added to patient counseling.
  + Updated recommendations related to contraindications (polysorbate allergy) and precautions (most people with a precaution can and should be administered vaccine).
* ***Resuming use of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:*** CDC and FDA recommend that use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine resume in the U.S. However, women younger than 50 years old should be made aware of a rare risk of blood clots with low platelets following vaccination and the availability of other COVID-19 vaccines where this risk has not been observed. Read the [CDC/FDA statement](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/fda-cdc-lift-vaccine-use.html).
  + Revised [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers](https://www.fda.gov/media/146304/download)
  + Revised [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download)
  + New [Guidance on Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome](https://www.hematology.org/covid-19/vaccine-induced-immune-thrombotic-thrombocytopenia)from the American Society on Hematology
  + New CDC [Talking to Your Patients About the Safety of Janssen Vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/talking-patients-Janssen-COVID-19-Vaccine-safety.pdf)
  + New CDC [Patient Handout: What do I Need to Know about J & J COVID-19 Vaccine Now?](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/324167-a-consumer-facing-three-vaccines-8.5x11-final-print.pdf)
* Updated ***Moderna vials:*** Moderna vaccine will soon be available in two different vials – the current maximum 11-dose vial and a new maximum 15-dose vial. The vial will remain the same size but will be filled to the higher volume. A new NDC has been issued for the larger volume Moderna vial, which has been authorized for a range of 13-15 doses in the updated Moderna [EUA factsheet for healthcare providers](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.fda.gov/media/144637/download__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xrGjW8F0fjNBInz_N-wx6OUkjMv_ZUOAmPdroaQ_A-1UA4PXOzxKn8JEnumAlyvwKRY$). During May, vaccine providers will receive allocations that include both Moderna vaccine vials, with the smaller maximum 11-dose vials being phased out. It will not always be possible to extract the 15th dose; providers should expect to withdraw 13-15 doses from a vial. The following materials support these EUA changes.
* [Talking points about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA amendments](https://www.mass.gov/doc/talking-points-about-the-moderna-covid-19-vaccine-eua-amendments/download)
* [FAQs about the EUA Amendments](https://www.mass.gov/doc/faq-about-the-eua-amendments/download)
* [Images of the new Moderna cartons and vial labels](https://www.mass.gov/doc/images-of-the-new-moderna-cartons-and-vial-labels/download)
* [Wastage Reporting Table](https://www.mass.gov/doc/wastage-reporting-table/download)

## *Consent for vaccination for minors younger than 18:* Vaccine providers are responsible for obtaining appropriate consent from patients before administering vaccines. For minors younger than 18 years of age, consent is obtained from a legally authorized representative on behalf of the child (usually a parent or guardian) by completing a written consent form that the minor can bring to their vaccination appointment. The parent or guardian does not need to go with the minor to their vaccination appointment to give consent. **Currently, people younger than 18 may only get the Pfizer vaccine.**

## For more information, including copies of the consent form in multiple languages, see [COVID-19 vaccinations for people under age 18 | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-people-under-age-18).

* ***Withdraw only the authorized number of doses from a vial of COVID-19 vaccine:*** This is indicated in the vaccine-specific EUA provider fact sheet. CDC will update its guidance if the EUA and ancillary supply kits support additional doses per vial in the future. Additional guidance:
  + Never combine or “pool” partial doses from 2 or more vials to obtain one full dose.
  + Withdraw only the number of doses [authorized](https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines) for the specific vaccine.
  + Discard vaccine vial and remaining vaccine in sharps container if the amount of vaccine left in the vial is not a full dose, or you have withdrawn the maximum number of doses authorized for that vaccine.
* ***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-).

**Resources & Learning Opportunities**

* NewAll staff supporting COVID-19 vaccination efforts should receive ongoing training as COVID-19 vaccine recommendations evolve.
* Review and complete training and core competencies by [professional qualification](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/training.html).
* For healthcare professionals new to vaccination, [COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs and Reference Materials for Healthcare Professionals](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-Clinical-Training-and-Resources-for-HCPs.pdf) provides a comprehensive list of suggested training and reference materials.
* For more immunization resources, see [Resources for Health Care Providers](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/resources.html) and [Immunization Education and Training.](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/index.html)
* MDPH COVID 19 Vaccination Live Q&A Webinar: May 24, 2021 1:00 PM Register [here](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1080430018057678864).
* Clinical information and administration resources can be found for each vaccine on their own CDC product webpage: [Pfizer,](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xjYbdLpCC1sLv-jvKbLMFWxTpcMujr42YEHcofW64PV_p89sf7ivTxM9y7t-8l0czXE$) [Moderna](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xjYbdLpCC1sLv-jvKbLMFWxTpcMujr42YEHcofW64PV_p89sf7ivTxM9y7t-xYQ8Uwg$), and [Janssen/J&J](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/index.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xjYbdLpCC1sLv-jvKbLMFWxTpcMujr42YEHcofW64PV_p89sf7ivTxM9y7t-sf4ibEQ$).
* CDC is offering brief (15-20 minute) webinars with CE credit:
  + [Preventing Vaccine Administration Errors: A Primer for Healthcare Workers](https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/videos/va.asp)
  + [A Primer for Healthcare Workers on Storing and Transporting Vaccines](https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/covid19/videos/sh.asp)
* [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html)
* CDC [Interim Clinical Considerations](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://t.emailupdates.cdc.gov/r/?id=h420174ea*2C13a7ec56*2C13a7ff27&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2120-DM53231&ACSTrackingLabel=New*20Reference*20Tools*20Are*20Available*21&s=XjVh3sp9GBPmLFeUueY4ZoSl5MbuJHnfVEVaD-Yn4Lg__;JSUlJSUlJQ!!CUhgQOZqV7M!z-3eZ1SXZe7M6M9jYwrHLPL6EjVoVs_9uHNzBkgWwXlt5raaWGYiDjhyZbLDi1BppPiviw$) 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$)
* [Beyond-use Date in Vial or Syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://go.usp.org/e/323321/-beyond-use-date-factsheet-pdf/4jcqm1/338978268?h=br8A31s9bVk84Pgc4BP45yLltadfxpWawPFAZY2YyGY__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!1_WOouIe4uSLwN-15bArz4hsEbME33w1VoQbXlYNrOdjYa2xBjYMPIOxFJ6CMbnm9FVrnw$)