

**BULLETIN**

**What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 6/17/21**

**Latest Numbers**

* As of 6/17, 4,042,011 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 4,340,477 have received at least one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

**Who to Vaccinate this Week**

* Anyone age 12 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.

**What to Know this Week**

* New ***Extended shelf life for Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine:*** The FDA [authorized an extension](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.fda.gov/media/150064/download__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xfXOAfPOolPRpyO1BxOyRVdudhSNzSnIaGGjxeh6PNJ9x8EkEsmI8n1rAzUpfb62YfBByg$) of the shelf life for the Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine from 3 months to 4.5 months (an additional 6 weeks). The decision is based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 4.5 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36 – 46°F (2 – 8°C).
  + Vaccine providers should visit [https://vaxcheck.jnj/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/vaxcheck.jnj/__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!xfXOAfPOolPRpyO1BxOyRVdudhSNzSnIaGGjxeh6PNJ9x8EkEsmI8n1rAzUpfb629XEbiA$) to confirm the latest expiration dates of vaccine, including those currently available for administration throughout the U.S. This extension applies to refrigerated vials of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine that have been held in accordance with the manufacturer’s storage conditions.
  + COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized under an EUA do not have fixed expiration dates, and their expiration dates can be extended as we get more stability data.  Always be sure to check the manufacturer’s website to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for COVID-19 vaccines you have on hand.
* Reminder ***Vaccine expiration dates:*** As the expiration draws closer, check posted manufacturer information for the most up to date expiration/extension information for vaccine lots. The MIIS also stores the correct expiration dates for vaccines. Expiration dates are reviewed and updated weekly in the MIIS.
  + **Pfizer**: check expiration date on vaccine package
  + **Moderna**: check expiration dates at <https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup>
  + **Janssen/Johnson & Johnson**: check expiration dates at <https://vaxcheck.jnj/>. Extended expiration dates have been updated in the MIIS.
* New ***Updated Guidance on Use and Allowable Wastage of COVID-19 Vaccine:***   Given the increase in vaccine availability and lower consumer demand, the Department is asking providers to maximize doses administered, understanding that this will increase waste. Please review [guidance on use and allowable wastage of COVID-19 vaccine](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccine-program-mcvp-guidance-for-vaccine-providers-and-organizations#guidance-on-use-and-allowable-wastage-of-covid-19-vaccine-). In addition, there are steps you can take to limit vaccine wastage:
  + Consider establishing and promoting standing vaccination days or half-days to increase likelihood of larger numbers of people presenting for vaccination on the same day.
  + Vaccinate family members or friends who accompany patients to medical visits even if they are not established patients at the vaccinating practice.
  + Outreach to employers or other community partners that have a large membership or network to arrange vaccination events.
  + Contact additional persons (i.e., personal contacts of persons being vaccinated) to use as many vaccine doses as possible.
* New ***CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards:*** As a reminder, COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards remain property of the U.S. Government until provided to the vaccine recipient following vaccination. Unauthorized use and reproduction of the cards constitute fraud. Please ensure that COVID-19 Vaccination Cards in your possession are secure to avoid their misuse. Healthcare providers can order extra print copies from the [MA Health Promotion Clearinghouse.](https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us/PROG-BID/IM247.html)
* New ***Prevaccination Checklist in multiple languages***: The Prevaccination Checklist for COVID-19 Vaccines is now available in six new languages. These are listed in the Administration Overview Section on each Product Information webpage:  [Arabic](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-arabic.pdf) | [English](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form.pdf) | [French](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-french.pdf) | [Haitian Creole](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-haitian-creole.pdf) | [Korean](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-korean.pdf) | [Portuguese](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-portuguese.pdf) | [Simplified Chinese](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-s.chinese.pdf) | [Spanish](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-sp.pdf) | [Vietnamese](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/pre-vaccination-screening-form-vietnamese.pdf).
* New ***Revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Template and Redistribution Guidance***: The [COVID-19 Vaccine Management SOP Template](https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-vaccine-management-standard-operating-procedure-sop-template/download) and [Redistribution Guidance for COVID-19 vaccines](https://www.mass.gov/doc/redistribution-guidance-for-covid-19-vaccines/download) were updated 6/14/21 to reflect changes in storage and handling.
* ***Viewing Patient Vaccination Records Reported to the MIIS:*** It is important for health care providers to identify unvaccinated patients in their practice to target outreach.Providers can view patient vaccinations reported to the MIIS by logging into the MIIS user interface or via bidirectional data connection between the MIIS and their EHR system. This gives providers insight into vaccinations that have been administered by other health care providers in the state.
  + If your site has a bidirectional data connection with the MIIS, immunizations from the MIIS will flow into your EHR. Please contact your EHR if assistance is needed viewing the immunization records.
  + If your site does not have a bidirectional data connection with the MIIS but you would like to set one up, please contact your EHR to see if they are capable of QBP. If your EHR is capable, please submit a quick onboarding request directly in the MIIS application. The following mini guide provides step by step instructions for submitting an onboarding request: [Onboarding Request Mini Guide](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Onboarding%20Request_Mini%20Guide.pdf). The [QBP (bidirectional) Onboarding Toolkit](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/MIIS%20documents%20OS%20/Onboarding%20toolkit_QBP%20RSP.pdf) provides links to all of the technical information needed to set up a QBP connection. Feel free to share with your EHR vendor and/or technical contact.
  + If you do not have an EHR with bidirectional capability, you may view patient immunization directly in the MIIS application through an easy search. The MIIS offers a training video and a mini guide that provides step by step instructions for viewing patient immunization records directly in the MIIS: [MIIS Look Up A Patient Training Video (<5 minutes)](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/MIIS%20documents%20OS%20/Patient%20Lookup/Patient%20Lookup_player.html), [Search and Create Immunization Records](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Search%20and%20Create%20Immunization%20Records_2019_Mini%20Guide.pdf).
* ***Undiluted, thawed Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine vials can be stored in the refrigerator at 2oC - 8oC for up to 1 month***:
  + The temperature ranges for unopened, non-punctured vials of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are now as follows:
    - -80°C to -60°C (Ultra Cold Storage): until the expiration date
    - -90°C to -60°C (Thermal Shipping Container): 30 days, if replenished with dry ice upon receipt and every 5 days (Note: thermal shippers that carry 450 doses trays must not be used as temporary storage.)
    - -25°C to -15°C (Freezer): up to 2 weeks
    - 2°C to 8°C (Refrigerator): up to 1 month (31 days)
* Additional storage & handling guidance for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines:
  + All Pfizer configurations are shipped ultra-cold.
  + Thermal shippers that carry 450 doses trays must not be used as temporary storage.
  + Pfizer Step Down Storage and Handling: Once vaccine has been exposed to a warmer temperature, it must not be placed back to a colder temperature range. For example, if unopened vaccine is being kept between -25°C to -15°C, it should not go back to ultra-cold temperatures, instead the provider can keep unopened vaccine at -25°C to -15°C for a total of 2 weeks and then step down to refrigerator. The unopened vaccine can stay in the refrigerator for 1 month.
  + Total storage time in freezer and refrigerator should not exceed 45 days.
  + Unopened vaccine cannot be used after the product expiration date. The expiration date is on the packaging.
  + Opened vaccine must be used within 6 hours of puncturing the vial.
* ***COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may be administered without regard to timing:*** This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as co-administration within 14 days. It is unknown whether reactogenicity of COVID-19 vaccine is increased with co-administration.

**Resources & Learning Opportunities**

* New [ACIP meeting](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html) on Friday June 18 at 11am: the meeting will include an update on COVID-19 vaccine safety, including myocarditis after mRNA vaccines. No registration required.
* New CDC Frequently Asked Questions are updated to include the latest recommendations: [General](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/faq.html) | [Pfizer-BioNTech](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/pfizer-bioNTech-faqs.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wdj3ZNKTlCWMvUVd5XpR6molN-wBwXO1SpKimup4zhrebFdcc2pJs9SDWT0-YxQ91DI$) | [Moderna](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/moderna-faqs.html__;!!CUhgQOZqV7M!wdj3ZNKTlCWMvUVd5XpR6molN-wBwXO1SpKimup4zhrebFdcc2pJs9SDWT0-c4777ok$).
* New CDC’s [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html) were updated 6/3/21.
* New [MMWR, June 11, 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7023e1.htm): Hospitalization of Adolescents Aged 12–17 Years with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1, 2020–April 24, 2021.
* New [MMWR, June 8, 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7023e2.htm): Decreases in COVID-19 Cases, Emergency Department Visits, Hospital Admissions, and Deaths Among Older Adults Following the Introduction of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, September 6, 2020–May 1, 2021.
* New [Editable COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Flyer](https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-vaccination-clinic-flyer): download and customize this flyer, available in multiple languages, to promote a vaccination clinic.
* Reminder Visit the [MIIS Resource Center](http://www.miisresourcecenter.com/) for training videos, guides, and more.
* [MIIS Coverage Reports](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Coverage%20Reports_2019_Mini%20Guide.pdf) allow sites to evaluate the immunization coverage for its practice. Check the “Include patient listing tables” box to include patient information. Use the Custom Coverage report to research COVID-19 coverage rates.
* [MIIS Reminder/Recall Reports](https://resources.miisresourcecenter.com/trainingcenter/Reminder%20Recall_2018_Mini%20Guide.pdf) provide a list of patients that are due or overdue for a specific vaccine, based on criteria specified by the user.