



# MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

## BULLETIN

### What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 5/14/21

#### Latest Numbers

- As of 5/13, 3,088,699 people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 3,870,892 have received one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

#### Who to Vaccinate this Week

- **New** 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.
- 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 Adolescent COVID-19 Vaccination:** FDA has extended the Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine to ages 12 and older. Read the [press release](#).
  - See updated EUA fact sheets for [providers](#) and [recipient and caregivers](#)
  - CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices approved the expanded EUA after a review data on the safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. The ACIP recommendations will be published in the MMWR.
  - The [CDC website](#) will reflect changes regarding the EUA and ACIP recommendations, and will include information on adolescent vaccination, as well as a pediatrician toolkit. CDC is working on updating all their resources and expects to have most complete by Monday 5/17.
  - CDC will hold a call/webinar for clinicians on Friday, May 14 from 2-3 PM: [What Clinicians Need to Know About Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccination of Adolescents](#)
- **New Individuals 12-15 years old can preregister for an appointment:** Preregister at [VaccineSignUp.mass.gov](#) and receive an email with booking instructions when an appointment is available.
- **New Staff training:** Pediatric care providers should be prepared to respond to questions and concerns about COVID-19 vaccine from adolescents and their parents/guardians. All staff that will handle or administer COVID-19 vaccine should receive the training needed to effectively meet the demands of their roles. Please see these resources to ensure that you and your staff are ready to administer COVID-19 vaccine to adolescents:
  - [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine: What Healthcare Professionals Need to Know](#)
  - [COVID-19 vaccine training by professional qualifications](#)
  - [CDC Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) includes information about Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling, and administration.

- **Reminder *Consent for vaccination for people 12-17 years of age:*** 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. For more information, including copies of the consent form in multiple languages, see [COVID-19 vaccinations for people under age 18](#).
- **New *Updated COVID-19 Vaccination Tools:*** See below for links to the updated prevaccination screening form and standing orders. Please note that the Pfizer standing orders are not yet been updated for adolescents 12-17 years old. Providers may need to write individual orders, adapt the existing standing orders, or write their own interim standing orders using others as a template.
  - [Pre-Vaccination Screening Form](#)
  - [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders](#)
  - [Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders](#)
  - [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders](#)
- **New *Ordering COVID-19 Vaccine through the MIIS:*** Providers will be able to order COVID-19 vaccine directly from the MIIS as needed, within certain limits. Providers must use requested vaccine within 10 days and must deplete existing inventory before an additional order will be approved. This direct ordering process will allow providers more flexibility in identifying their vaccine needs and in planning their order timing. Moving forward, all new providers receiving vaccine will use this direct ordering process. Existing providers will be transitioned to this new process within the next couple weeks. Review the [ordering guidance](#) for more information.
  - An attestation survey was sent to providers who have already completed the MCVP agreement and have self-identified as Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Multi-specialty, or Pediatric practice. The survey requires providers to attest to certain minimum ordering requirements – that adult providers go through at least 100 doses of Moderna or Janssen in less than 10 days and pediatric providers at least 1,170 doses of Pfizer.
- **New *Upcoming Changes to the Ancillary Kits:***
  - Beginning the week of May 17, Pfizer 1,170 ancillary kits will include a ratio of 4:2 low dead-volume syringes and needles to non-low dead-volume syringes and needles. This is a modification from the current 5:1 ratio.
  - When the Pfizer-450 tray comes out (which should be available for ordering the week of May 31), there will be the option of ordering an associated pediatric ancillary kit that will be composed of 100% one-inch needles.
  - When (and if) the Moderna-14 is authorized for use in adolescents, there will be the option of ordering an associated pediatric ancillary kit that will be composed of 100% one-inch needles.
- ***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](#) for talking with your patients about COVID-19 vaccination. The following resources may also be helpful:
  - [Trust the Facts, Get the Vax campaign materials](#) in multiple languages.
  - [Vaccine education and outreach materials](#) in multiple languages
  - [COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](#) to help your patients find out where to get vaccinated.

- **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](#).
  - Revised [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers](#)
  - Revised [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)
  - [Guidance on Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome](#) from the American Society on Hematology
  - CDC [Talking to Your Patients About the Safety of Janssen Vaccine](#)
  - CDC [Patient Handout: What do I Need to Know about J & J COVID-19 Vaccine Now?](#)

### Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** [What Clinicians Need to Know About Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccination of Adolescents:](#) Friday, May 14 from 2-3 PM.
- **New** Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), [Medical Management of Vaccine Reactions in Children and Teens](#).
- **Reminder** MDPH COVID 19 Vaccination Live Q&A Webinar: May 24, 2021 1:00 PM Register [here](#).
- All 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](#).
  - For healthcare professionals new to vaccination, [COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs and Reference Materials for Healthcare Professionals](#) provides a comprehensive list of suggested training and reference materials.
  - For more immunization resources, see [Resources for Health Care Providers](#) and [Immunization Education and Training](#).
- Clinical information and administration resources can be found for each vaccine on their own CDC product webpage: [Pfizer](#), [Moderna](#), and [Janssen/J&J](#).
- CDC is offering brief (15-20 minute) webinars with CE credit:
  - [Preventing Vaccine Administration Errors: A Primer for Healthcare Workers](#)
  - [A Primer for Healthcare Workers on Storing and Transporting Vaccines](#)
- [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](#)
- CDC [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) reference materials:
  - [Interim Clinical Consideration Summary](#)
  - [Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations table](#)
- USP COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit. [Download the latest toolkit](#)
  - [Maximizing Doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
  - [Transporting COVID-19 Vaccines Off-Site](#)
  - [Beyond-use Date in Vial or Syringe for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)