



MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

BULLETIN

What Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Need to Know Week of 6/24/21

Latest Numbers

- As of 6/24, 4,125,320 in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated and 4,379,685 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

- **Updated *Viewing Patient Vaccination Records Reported to the MIIS***: Providers are obligated to provide immunization records to their patients when feasible to do so, either using their EHR system or the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) to locate and print the patient's immunization certificate. Please review [this letter](#) on how to view patient vaccination records reported to the MIIS. This also gives providers insight into vaccinations that have been administered by other health care providers in the state so that they can conduct outreach to unvaccinated patients in their practice.
- **Extended shelf life for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine**: The FDA [authorized an extension](#) 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.inj/> 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.
- **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](#). 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.
- **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](#).
- **Revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Template and Redistribution Guidance:** The [COVID-19 Vaccine Management SOP Template](#) and [Redistribution Guidance for COVID-19 vaccines](#) were updated 6/14/21 to reflect changes in storage and handling.

Resources & Learning Opportunities

- **New** [Resources for refugees, immigrants, and migrants](#): Free, customizable, and translated campaigns for anyone to use. Materials are available in 30+ languages that are representative of refugee populations arriving in the US and living in Massachusetts.
- **New** Resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have low literacy:
 - [How I get my COVID-19 shot](#): Simple illustrations and easy-to-read messages to explain how to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - [Promotional toolkit](#): includes sample social media posts, email content, and images for sharing these resources with your networks.
- **Updated** COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals: [General](#) | [Janssen](#) | [Moderna](#) | [Pfizer](#)
- **Reminder** Download the CDC [prevaccination checklist](#) in multiple languages
- [Editable COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Flyer](#): download and customize this flyer, available in multiple languages, to promote a vaccination clinic.
- Visit the [MIIS Resource Center](#) for training videos, guides, and more.
 - [MIIS Coverage Reports](#) 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](#) provide a list of patients that are due or overdue for a specific vaccine, based on criteria specified by the user.