

Viewing Amanda Sachs's app...

# Vaccine update

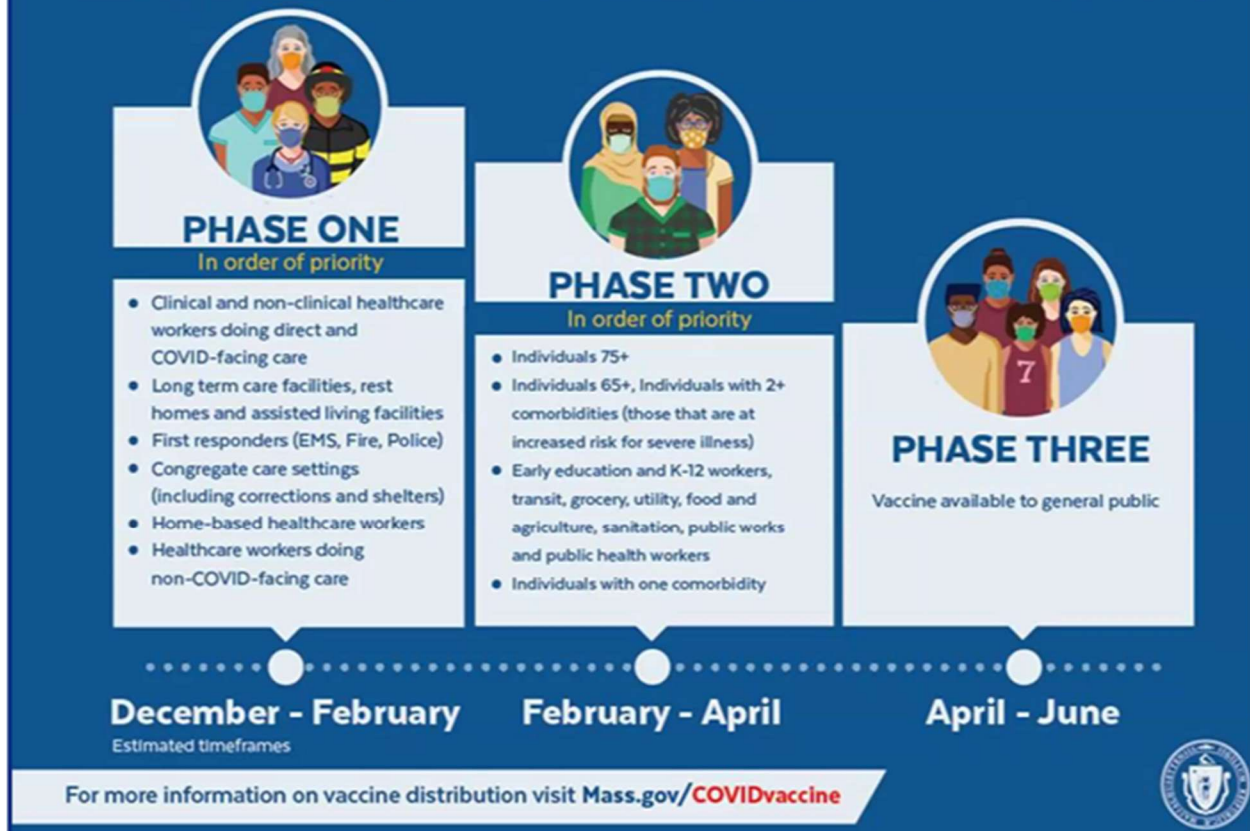
Monday, January 25th, 2021

## Timeline

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- October 7, Commonwealth convened a COVID-19 vaccine Advisory Group in preparation for receiving a COVID-19 vaccine
- December 9, COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group announces vaccine distribution priority groups. Vaccine is prioritized for specific groups to maximize life preservation and to support the health care system
- December 11, Pfizer received EUA for vaccine. Initial doses received in Massachusetts for COVID facing healthcare workers 12/14. Pfizer vaccine requires ultra cold storage and is shipped in boxes containing 975 doses
- December 18, Moderna received EUA for vaccine. Initial doses received in Massachusetts for COVID facing healthcare workers 12/21. Moderna vaccine can be stored in a regular freezer and is shipped in boxes containing 100 doses
- Massachusetts is allocated approximately 86,000 first doses per week
- COVID facing healthcare workers began receiving vaccine on 12/14
- Workers and residents of nursing facilities began to receive vaccine on 12/28
- Workers and residents of assisted living facilities and rest homes began to receive vaccine on 1/11
- First responders began to receive vaccine on 1/11
- Residents and staff in congregate settings began to receive vaccine on 1/18
- On 1/21, Phase One opened to the remaining priority groups: Home based Healthcare workers and Non-COVID-facing healthcare workers. All phase one priority groups are now eligible. This decision represents our commitment to preserving our healthcare capacity, protection of some of our most vulnerable residents; and equity.
- 2/1, Phase Two launched, individuals age 75 and older eligible to receive the vaccine

# When can I get a **COVID-19** vaccine in MA?



Individuals eligible in Phase 1 may be vaccinated from that point and going forward. Individuals 75+ are eligible 2/1. Individuals aged 65+ and those with 2 or more serious illnesses have moved up in Phase 2 ranking - no date yet of adverse reaction from COVID-19 infection is posted on website. There is a list of co-morbid illnesses that pose a higher risk Will work with Councils on Aging and other community aging experts to facilitate vaccination. Do not need to get a standing order to be vaccinated.

Medical, nursing, and other health care students and behavioral health workers are listed in the prioritized phases depending on whether they are Covid-facing or non-Covid facing work.

Vaccine registration requires a self-attestation that you are eligible for vaccination under pains of perjury. Do not need to bring evidence of illness. ID is not a requirement to be vaccinated, but you will be asked to show one if you have one.

# COVID-19 Massachusetts Vaccination Attestation Form



## Signature

- I hereby attest under the penalties of perjury to the best of my knowledge and belief that I belong to the Phase 1 priority group that I selected above.
- I hereby attest under penalties of perjury that I live, work, or study in Massachusetts.

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*First Name*

*Last Name*

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*Email (optional)*

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*Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)*  
*(optional)*

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*Zip Code (optional)*

**At your appointment you may be asked for the following information:**

- Insurance card. Vaccination is free whether you have insurance or not. If you have insurance, please bring that information with you.
- Identification, examples include:
  - Employer-issued ID card that includes your name and title; or
  - Government-issued identification or license; or
  - Recent paystub

**You may get a vaccine even if you don't have a driver's license or a social security number.**

Please identify which priority group you belong to:

- I am a health care worker (clinical or non-clinical), including in home care worker
- I work or currently reside in a skilled nursing facility, rest home, assisted living facility or a continuing care retirement community, as defined below
- I am a first responder
- I work or currently reside in a residential congregate care/shelter setting

**This information is not exhaustive, please [visit the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution timeline for further information](#) about each prioritization category:**

- Continuing care retirement communities listed [here are eligible for vaccine in Phase 1](#)
- First responders examples include: employees of a police department, fire department, public or private emergency medical service entity, or federal law enforcement
- Congregate care settings examples include: group home, shelter, treatment program, residential education program, correctional facility
- Home care worker examples include: personal care attendant, adult foster care worker, mental/behavioral health care provider providing in home treatment, state agency staff performing direct care in the home

We are not done with Phase 1. It remains open even after Phase 2 stage 1: people 75+ opens on 2/1.

Distribution numbers are not as high in MA as in other states, because we prioritized congregate care settings, health care workers, first responders, equity in hardest hit communities, homeless, DV survivors, and homeless veterans – a diverse and dispersed populations. Doing that made it slower for us to start.

Supply for 2<sup>nd</sup> dose for those who have had 1<sup>st</sup> dose is a top priority for the state. Schedule your 2<sup>nd</sup> appt. at the time of your first dose to ensure vaccine is allocated for you. A caller reported Walgreen's has told people they don't have the reserve to schedule 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. The state will address in one of their daily calls with Walgreen's.

Congregate Care youth needing Pfizer: contact Ryan Fitzgerald, [ryan.m.fitzgerald@mass.gov](mailto:ryan.m.fitzgerald@mass.gov), and Patti Mackin, [patti.mackin@mass.gov](mailto:patti.mackin@mass.gov) for help accessing Pfizer vaccine for them.

Supply: 4.1m people over age 15 is 85% of MA population. Must schedule vaccination for 4.1m people according to how vaccine is made available to the State. Using multiple settings to distribute. Mass vaccination sites are the most efficient right now. As the public health official said, it's hard to choose which 1500 phase 1 people to vaccinate if only 100 doses are allocated. Have 85k doses per week supply right now.


Week to week allocation and distribution from the federal government is challenging. Until we have much more supply, the state does need to prioritize.

## Where are we on Vaccine Distribution?

### COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: All Phase 1 Groups Eligible

- 1 COVID-facing healthcare workers Eligible Group
- 2 Long term care facilities (LTCF) Eligible Group
- 3 First responders (EMS, Fire, Police) Eligible Group
- 4 Congregate care settings (inc. corrections & shelters) Eligible Group
- 5 Home-based healthcare workers Eligible Group
- 6 Non-COVID-facing healthcare workers Eligible Group

For more details on each group and phase visit [mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://mass.gov/COVIDvaccine)

  
@massgov

Step 1 of Phase 2 launching 2/1: Individuals age 75 and older eligible to receive vaccine

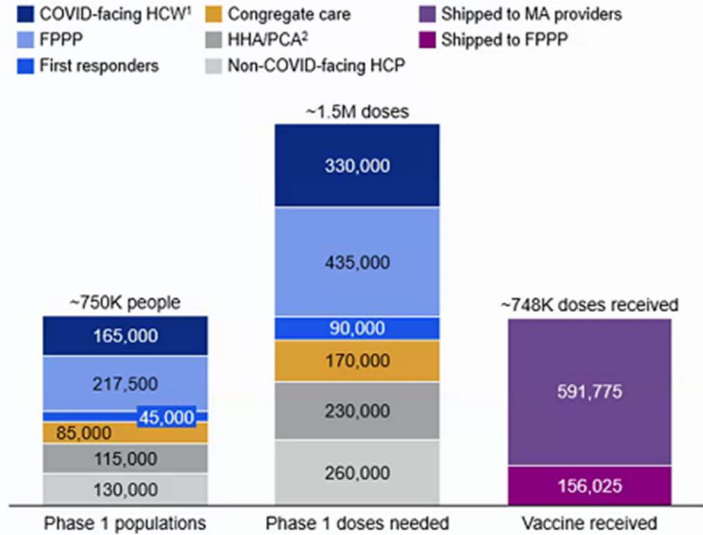
# Comparing Phase 1 Populations and Received Vaccine

As of January 20th

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## MA has received 748K doses and there are 1.5M doses needed for 100% vaccination of Phase 1 populations

### Comparing Phase 1 populations and received vaccine as of 1/20



Assumes 100% uptake; DPH is not expecting to complete 100% vaccination of Phase 1 populations before moving to Phase 2

1. COVID-facing HCW may have increased since estimates were done due to increased COVID prevalence (previously estimated at ~40% of HCW, now closer to 80%)  
 2. Home-based healthcare workers have increased since estimates were done due to inclusion of ~50k of unpaid workers providing medical care to family members

State website to be updated soon to make it easier to find mass vaccination sites. Actively looking at creating a live chat feature.

# Where Will the Vaccines be Distributed? Viewing Amanda Sachs's app...

Find out where to  
get vaccinated if you  
are in **PHASE 1**



[mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap)



## • Mass Vaccination Sites

- Gillette Stadium went live on 01/18
- Fenway launching on 02/01
- Springfield at Eastfield Mall launching on 1/29
- Danvers at Double Tree Hilton Hotel launching on 2/3
- Reggie Lewis Center (coming online Early February through partnership with City of Boston)

## • Retail Pharmacies (started 1/19)

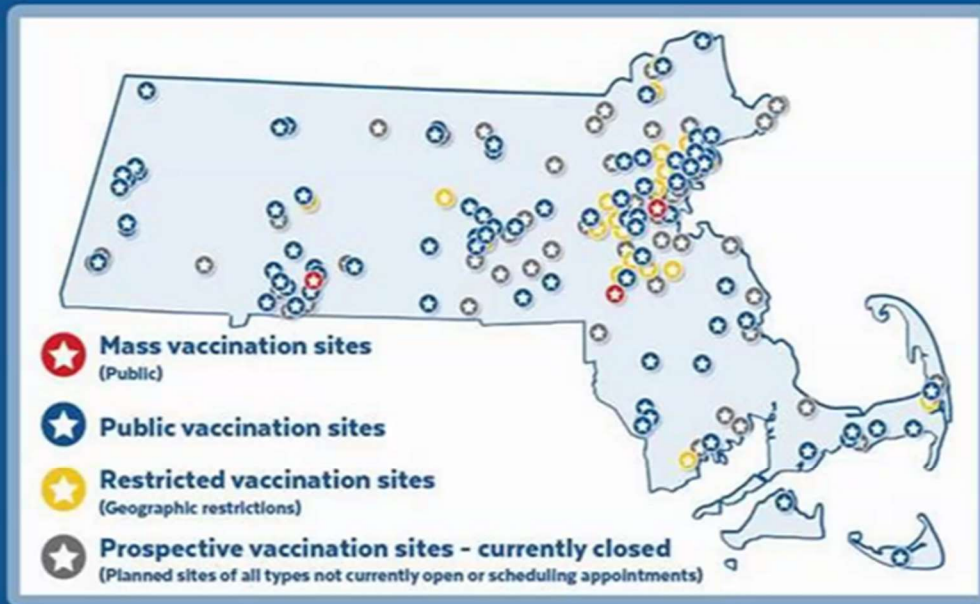
- CVS Health, Walgreens, 44 new sites coming online this week: These include new pharmacy and retail locations such as Big Y, Wegmans, Price Chopper, Retail Business Services at Hannaford and Stop and Shop Pharmacies, and CVS Health. In total, 60 pharmacy sites available for vaccination, with more coming online in the coming weeks

## • Open provider sites, community clinics

- Health providers who have signed up to host clinics-**COMING SOON!**

Later will have vaccinations at local pharmacies, grocery stores, and other sites. We have insisted these sites be in Communities of Color and communities adversely impacted.

# COVID-19 Vaccination Locations



Additional sites added regularly. For location details and to book an appointment visit [mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap)



Information is refreshed and updated on the Mass.gov website regularly. A mass vaccination site should be sited in SE MA by the end of February. Vaccination at PCP offices: a long way off when supply is plentiful.



## It's **SAFE**



The available COVID-19 Vaccines are approved and recommended by the FDA and CDC.

By **prioritizing resources and efforts**, the vaccines were developed quickly and **never** at the expense of safety.

[mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases)

SWIPE >>>



## It's **FREE**

The COVID-19 vaccine is being administered **free of charge** to all individuals by the federal government.



**No insurance is required.**

[mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases)

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### Is the vaccine safe?

- **Yes. The vaccine is safe.**
- Vaccines go through more testing than any other pharmaceuticals, including extensive testing in clinical trials
- The FDA, which approves the vaccine, and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), reviewed data to ensure the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are both safe and effective
- The infectious disease leads in the state's academic medical centers also reviewed the EUA data for both vaccines and provided an independent opinion about their safety and efficacy and recommended their use

### What will the vaccine cost?

- **The vaccine is being provided free of charge to all individuals**
- There is no cost to the individual.
- Insurance companies will not charge any out-of-pocket fees or co-payments related to COVID-19 vaccine administration
- All health care provider sites that receive vaccine must agree to not charge patients out-of-pocket fees or deny anyone vaccination

Other FAQs are available on [mass.gov/covidvaccine](https://mass.gov/covidvaccine)

Johnson and Johnson vaccine should be considered for approval in Feb. If approved, should ease the supply.

## Tele-Town Hall for Viewing Amanda Sachs's app...

- Last week, after opening phase one to homebased healthcare workers and non-covid-facing healthcare workers, we held a tele-town hall for home-based healthcare workers—over 11,000 home health workers participated.
- These hardworking individuals have given selflessly over the course of the pandemic to ensure their patients do not experience gaps in care. Many of our home health workers reside and work in communities hardest hit by COVID, and their concerns echoed this.
- Participants were able to hear from a team of doctors, including Dr. Paul Biddinger, who chairs the states COVID-19 vaccine advisory group, about vaccine safety and efficacy, and they were able to ask questions directly and receive real time answers.
- Questions were largely pertaining to vaccine safety, but many of the sentiments we heard were from these hardworking men and women that are eager to receive vaccine to protect their families and their patients alike. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.
- As we continue to move through our vaccine distribution, we will continue to engage groups to increase awareness of the importance of receiving the COVID vaccine.

If there are groups interested in larger webinars, up to 10,000 people EOHHS is available. Email Kate Riley to request: [katelyn.reilly@mass.gov](mailto:katelyn.reilly@mass.gov).

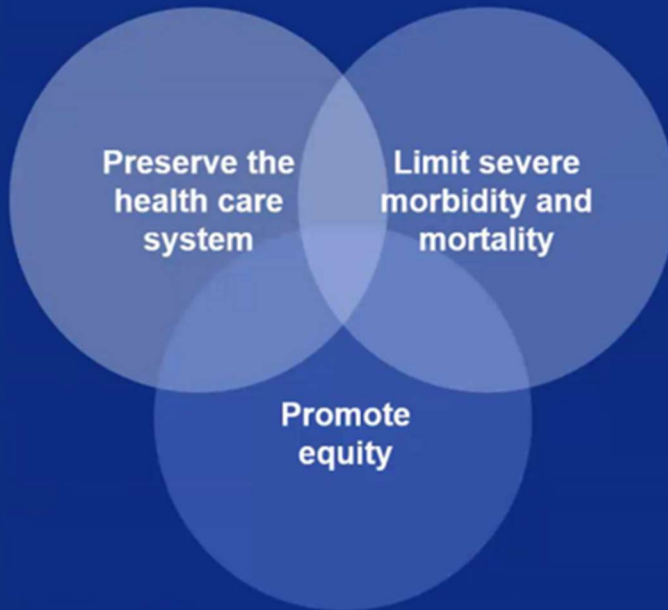
- In addition to our intensive vaccination administration efforts, we continue relentless focus on reducing and containing cases within congregate care settings through effective infection prevention and control practice.
- EOHHS has established certified infection prevention nurse resources through Commonwealth Medicine for site specific case consultation to congregate care settings operated or contracted by our state agencies.
- In addition, we offering an "*Applying Infection Control Basics in Congregate Care Settings*" tomorrow (Tuesday 1/26 at noon) which will be facilitated by Commonwealth Medicine certified infection prevention nurse. The target audience is house / site managers, direct program staff, and those in the organization that train these program staff. All congregate care stakeholder groups and providers (including residential education and shelter) have been invited and as of noon today, more than 450 individuals across congregate care settings have registered.
- The webinar will be recorded so that additional staff can access it and that the content can be used to supplement – not supplant- existing training that organizations are providing to new staff and on an in-service basis. Questions can be in advance as well as time within the webinar for live Q&A.
- In addition, for those who will be viewing the recording later we will have a few 'drop in' office hours over the next few weeks for additional Q&A. Our state agency points of contact will be sharing these 'drop in' times as soon as they are scheduled.

Tuesday 1/26 Congregate Care Infection Control Training which will be recorded as a supplement training for Providers.

# Advisory Group Multiple Priorities

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## Reflect



### The Advisory Group took a strong stance on equity:

- Prioritizes all COVID-facing individuals in healthcare settings, including food service and environmental (not just doctors and nurses) as well as home health workers

## Vaccine Safety

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- The vaccine products being distributed in Massachusetts have received an EUA and have been determined to be safe by the FDA
- Vaccines go through more testing than any other pharmaceuticals, including extensive testing in clinical trials
- The FDA and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) ensure any vaccine is both safe and effective
- Infectious disease leads in Massachusetts' academic medical centers convened a Task Force to provide the Commonwealth with an independent, non-governmental evaluation of each COVID-19 vaccine approved under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Following its review of the safety and efficacy data, the Task Force unanimously recommended that the Commonwealth deploy the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Agreement requires reporting moderate and severe adverse event to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

## Additional Information

- You must receive 2 shots in order to be fully vaccinated
- If you have recently received the flu shot, you must wait 14 days to get the COVID-19 vaccine
- Most common side effects include pain at the injection site, fatigue, joint pain and headache
- Please continue to check our website as a source of truth. We have a dedicated Congregate Care Vaccine information page at [www.mass.gov/congregatecarevaccine](http://www.mass.gov/congregatecarevaccine)

There is some leeway in scheduling date of 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. May get 2<sup>nd</sup> dose up to 4 days early and at any time after the 21-day Pfizer or 28-day Moderna timeline.

Wasting doses: no waste is wanted and please respect the phase and stage plan. Have a call-back or wait list to access toward the end of vaccination day. Use your best efforts and judgement and do not waste doses.