

# Phased COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

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



### PHASE ONE

In order of priority

- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- First responders (EMS, Fire, Police)
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care



### PHASE TWO

In order of priority

- Individuals with 2+ comorbidities (high risk for COVID-19 complications), individuals age 75+, and residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable senior housing
- Early education and K-12 workers, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Adults 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity



### PHASE THREE

Vaccine available to general public

**December - February**

Estimated timeframes

**February - April**

**April - June**

For more information on vaccine distribution visit [Mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine)



## Where Will the Vaccine be Administered?

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



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



### • **Mass Vaccination Sites**

- Gillette Stadium went live on 01/18
- Fenway launching on 02/01
- More sites to be announced

### • **Retail Pharmacies (starting 1/25)**

- CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Grocery Store Pharmacies, etc.

### • **Primary Care, Medical Sites, Community Clinics**

- Private medical offices, hospitals and community health centers, local and regional community clinics

### • **Employer Groups holding vaccination clinics for employees (optional)**

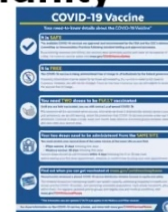
- Opportunity to apply for the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP)

# Vaccination Options for Employers

- **Option 1:** If an employer is interested and **has the ability** to vaccinate staff, can work with provider partner to request vaccine directly from DPH. *If you offer on site flu clinics you can leverage that playbook*  
Requirements:
  - You, or your clinical partner, must be registered with the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) and submit a completed unique [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program \(MCVP\) Agreement](#)
  - Must have a vaccination standing order in place, signed by a medical provider.
  - Must have the capacity to fully organize and staff the clinics to meet the vaccination need of at least **200 individuals to qualify**.
  - Must have refrigeration/freezer capacity, personal protective equipment (PPE), & clinical and non-clinical staffing to support the effort
- **Option 2:** Employers may leverage an existing relationship with a health care provider or pharmacy to host an onsite clinic. If you have identified a provider partner and need help obtaining the vaccine, Mary Joyce is the contact at [Mary.Joyce@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Mary.Joyce@dot.state.ma.us)
- **Option 3:** Encourage your employees to use a mass vaccination site, their primary care provider or provider site listed on the COVID-19 vaccine map: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-individuals-currently-eligible-to-be-vaccinated>

## Employer Engagement

- **Communicate information on benefits and safety of vaccine to employees and surrounding community**
  - Public awareness campaign around safety of vaccine launches 02/07. Materials can be shared for distribution.
- **Encourage employees, when eligible, to receive the vaccine**
  - Communicate when employee's phase starts and eligible to receive vaccine.
- **Host a clinic for employees, if interested**
  - Work with provider (e.g. wellness partner) to apply for MA COVID-19 Vaccine Program (MCVP) to order and administer vaccinations to employees.



# Additional Information:

- You must receive 2 shots in order to be fully vaccinated with the current vaccines
- 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.  
[www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine)

## Other Useful Sites:

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccination

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

## FAQs:

### 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](http://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](http://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 center 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](http://mass.gov/covidvaccine)**

# Everyone in Phase 1 is now eligible for a coronavirus vaccination. Does that include you?

By **Travis Andersen** Globe Staff, Updated January 22, 2021, 10:32 a.m.  
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First responders, including Foxborough Fire Chief Michael Kelleher (center), waited in the post vaccine area to make sure they are okay after getting their coronavirus vaccine at Gillette Stadium. SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Governor Charlie Baker announced Thursday that everyone eligible for [the COVID-19 vaccine](#) under Phase 1 of the state's rollout program can now book an appointment to get a shot.

That now includes home-based health care workers, and non-COVID facing health care workers, as well as workers and residents of congregate care settings such as shelters and prisons. The vaccine has already been available to COVID-facing health care workers, staff, and residents of long-term care facilities, and first responders such as police, firefighters, and paramedics.

Among those who fall under the home-based health care workers category are personal care attendants (PCAs); mental and behavioral health providers providing in-home treatment; aging service agency staff performing regular visits in the home; and many other groups, according to [the state list](#).

Non-COVID facing health care workers [now eligible for the vaccine include](#) dentists, dental students, and dental hygienists; inpatient and outpatient physical therapists; blood donation workers; audiologists and speech and language pathologists; asthma and allergy specialists; chiropractors; acupuncturists; and a wide array of other professionals.

These are the complete lists of the of Phase 1 groups who are newly eligible to receive the shots, according to the state:

### **Home-based health care workers, including:**

- PT/OT/SLP therapists who work with medically complex home students
- Personal Care Attendants (PCAs)
- Home Health, hospice, and home care agency staff performing visits in the home
- Independent Nurses and Continuous Skilled Nursing staff performing visits in the home
- Aging Service agency staff performing regular visits in the home
- State Agency staff performing direct care in the home, including DCF Emergency Response Workers, DMH case managers and DDS care coordinators
- Mental and behavioral health providers providing in home treatment (e.g., ACCS integrated team, PACT, CBHI, ABA, ESP)
- Adult Foster Care and Group Adult Foster Care workers performing work in the home
- Independent Therapists (physical therapists, occupational therapists, Speech & Language therapists) performing work in the home
- Home-Based Respite and Individual/Family Support staff (DDS and DDS Self Directed)

### **Health care workers doing non-COVID-facing care, including:**

- Dentists/dental students, and dental hygienists (unless routinely working with COVID-19 positive or suspected patients such as Oral Surgeons covering the ER, in which case should be considered COVID-facing)
- Medical and nursing students (unless routinely working with COVID-19 positive or suspected patients, in which case should be considered COVID-facing)
- Inpatient and outpatient physical therapists (unless routinely working with COVID-19 positive or suspect patients, in which case should be considered COVID-facing)

- Interpreters who work in hospitals (unless routinely working with COVID-19 positive or suspected patients, in which case should be considered COVID-facing)
- Behavioral health clinicians not already covered in congregate care or direct care
- Non-COVID facing Laboratorians
- Blood donation workers
- Organ donation procurement workers
- Hospice/palliative care professionals
- Non-COVID facing imaging professionals
- Dialysis center workers and patients
- Audiologists and speech and language pathologists (unless routinely working with COVID-19 positive or suspected patients, in which case should be considered COVID-facing)
- Podiatrists and pedorthists (unless routinely working with COVID-19 positive or suspected patients, in which case should be considered COVID-facing)
- Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) staff
- SUD treatment program staff (if program is non-residential)
- Asthma and allergy specialists
- Diagnostic sleep testing center staff
- Chiropractors
- School nurses (other than those working as vaccinators/testers)
- Members of the clergy (if working in patient-facing roles)
- Acupuncturists

Next up will be Phase 2, which is slated to launch at some point in February, according [to the state](#). The phase includes, in order of priority, people with two or more comorbidities; those age 75 and older; residents and staff of public and private low-income and affordable senior housing; workers in early education, K-12 schools, transit, grocery, utilities, food and agriculture, restaurants and cafes; employees across the food, beverage, agriculture, consumer goods, retail, and food service sectors; meatpackers; sanitation, public works, and public health workers; vaccine development workers; food pantry workers and volunteers; Uber, Lyft, and other ride share service workers; pharmacy delivery drivers; workers in the passenger ground transportation industry; MassPort employees other than police; water and waste-water utility staff; court system workers such as judges, lawyers, and clerks but not court officers, who're listed as first responders; medical supply chain workers; funeral directors and funeral workers; shipping port and terminal workers; adults 65 and over; and people with one comorbidity.

Then, the state site says, Massachusetts is scheduled to hit Phase 3 of the rollout in April, when the vaccine "is expected to be available to the general public," including higher education workers such as administrators, teaching, and non-teaching staff; bottled beverage industry workers; and veterinarians.

"Once the vaccine is available to the general public, public vaccine clinics will be available on the CDC's interactive website: [vaccinefinder.org](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/downloads/#vaccinefinder)," the state site says.

“You will also be able to check with your primary care provider, local pharmacy or local health department. ”

Speaking during his regular State House briefing Thursday, Baker said that “based on the number of people who have been vaccinated, who were part of the early part of phase one, we now believe anybody in phase one should go to the website, find a site near them, and go get dosed. Because they [vaccination sites] are now open. All of them.”

The website he referred to is [mass.gov/covidvaccinemap](https://mass.gov/covidvaccinemap), which provides information on eligibility and vaccination site locations, as well as instructions for booking appointments.

The state site also reminds residents that “the vaccine requires two doses. You must receive the same vaccine for doses one and two, and therefore you must receive both doses at the same site location.”

# END #