

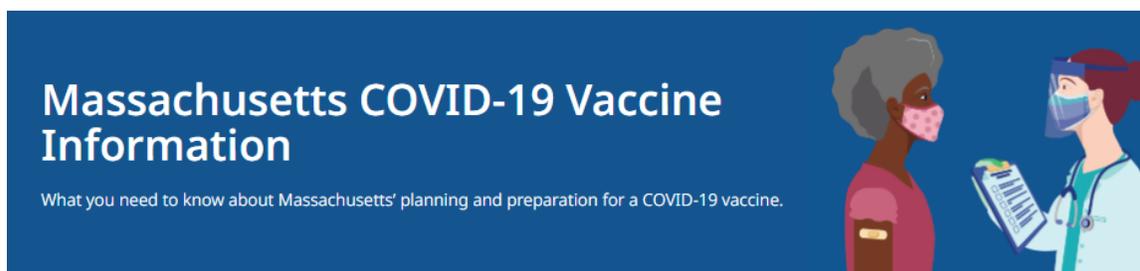
COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

January 5, 2021:

The Town of Mansfield continues its community update on our website with our up to date information and important tips for the public as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more complete information, please see the town [coronavirus webpage](#).

- **As of today, please see the below chart that represents our communities COVID-19 relates cases:**

<i>Mansfield Covid-19 Workflow</i>	#	
Positive COVID-19 under isolation	152	(updated 1/5 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	722	
Total tested positive since beginning:	895	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	Red	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	21	Last Covid death in Mansfield 12/27/20



- **About the COVID-19 vaccine**

In anticipation of the approval of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, Massachusetts has an active inter-agency working group developing plans to ensure an equitable and speedy distribution to Massachusetts communities. View the latest vaccine updates in MA below, including the vaccine prioritization plan, frequently asked questions, and information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

[Sign up for COVID-19 and vaccine alerts](#)

[Latest vaccine update in MA](#)

We are currently in **Phase 1** of the [MA COVID-19 vaccine distribution timeline](#).

On January 4, the MA vaccine distribution plan has been updated so that individuals age 75+ are included in Phase 2, Group 1, along with individuals of all ages with 2+ comorbidities.

Vaccinations for first responders will begin January 11. Details can be found at mass.gov/FirstResponderVaccine.

- COVID-19 vaccinations continue for COVID-facing health care workers and residents and staff of long term care facilities through the [Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program](#).
- On December 24, a [new vaccination dashboard](#) was launched with state metrics.
- A new COVID-19 variant has emerged in the United Kingdom (UK), with an unusually large number of mutations. Learn more: [New COVID-19 Variants | CDC](#).

[COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Common questions about Massachusetts's planning and preparation for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Who will get vaccine first?

Massachusetts residents will get the vaccine in phases. The federal government has recommended - and the Massachusetts COVID-19 Advisory Group has agreed - that first doses of vaccine (Phase 1) will go to people at highest risk for COVID-19 including health care workers, residents and staff of congregate care settings including nursing homes, and first responders.

The general public (those not falling into one of the higher risk categories) is not expected to be offered vaccine until later in 2021.

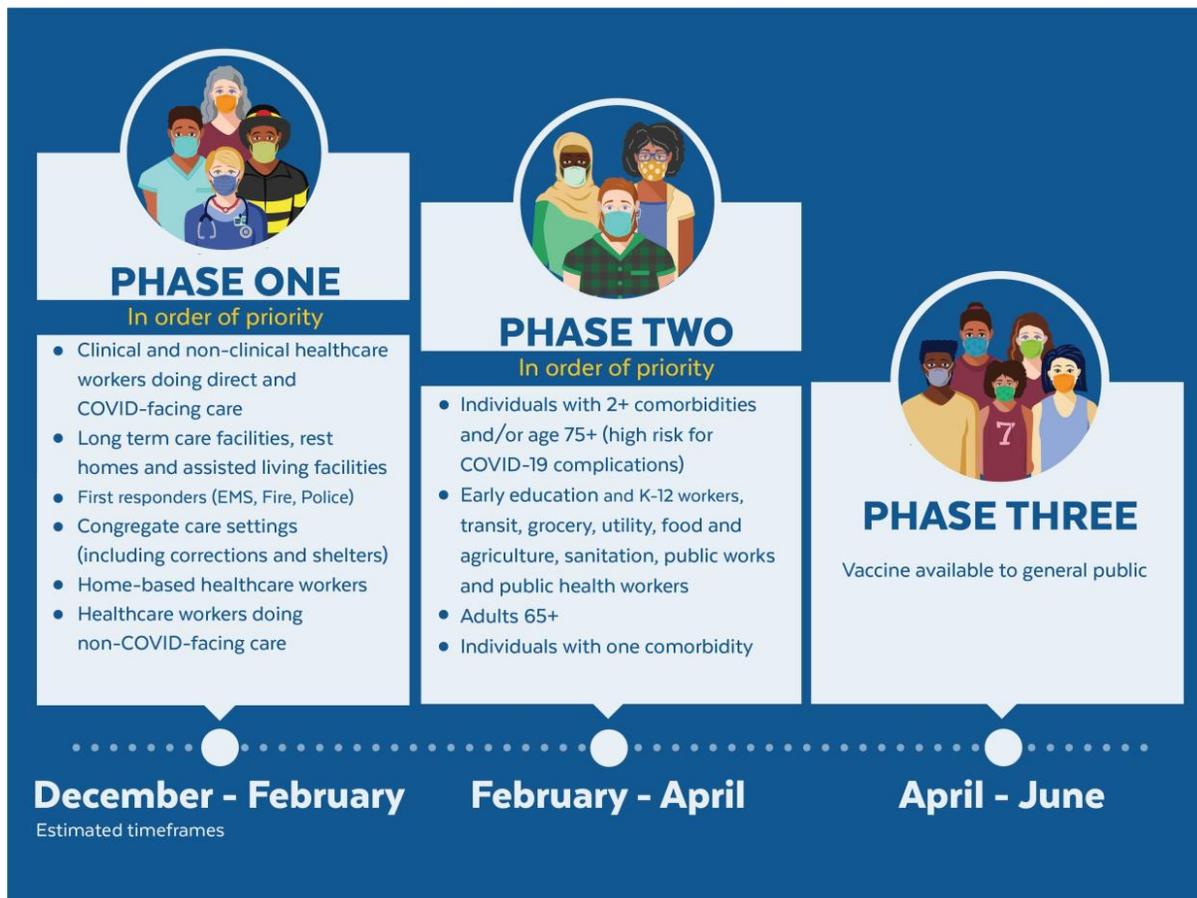
Massachusetts has considered input from the MA COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group and incorporated recommendations from the federal [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) and the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine](#) (NASEM) to guide prioritization in our state.

Massachusetts places equity as a core principle of its recommendations, going further than national recommendations by prioritizing all COVID-facing health workers, not only health care providers, but also healthcare food service and facility workers. Similarly, home health workers including personal care attendants are prioritized recognizing their important role providing services to vulnerable individuals and the fact that they often reside in communities highly affected by COVID-19.

Vaccine prioritization will occur in phases:

1. **Phase 1** (December 2020 – February 2021): Approved vaccines start to go to 5 priority groups (listed in order of priority):
 - Clinical and non-clinical health care workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
 - Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities

- Police, fire and emergency medical services
 - Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
 - Home-based health care workers
 - Health care workers doing non-COVID-facing care
2. **Phase 2** (February – March 2021; listed in order of priority):
- Individuals with 2+ [co-morbid conditions](#) (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
 - Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
 - Adults 65+
 - Individuals with one [co-morbid condition](#)
3. **Phase 3** (Starting in April 2021): Vaccine is expected to be available to the general public.



[Learn more about the distribution timeline here.](#)

When will residents of nursing homes receive the vaccine?

Residents of long term care facilities are being prioritized in Phase 1 of vaccination. The federal government has contracted with Walgreens and CVS to go to all facilities during Phase 1 to vaccinate staff and residents.

How do we know if the vaccine is safe?

A vaccine will not be distributed in Massachusetts until the FDA determines the vaccine is safe.

It's important to know that vaccines go through more testing than any other pharmaceuticals. Before any vaccine is made available, it must go through rigorous development and testing. Manufacturing is critical — every dose must consistently be high quality. Additionally, [extensive testing in clinical trials](#) is conducted to prove safety. First, small groups of people receive the trial vaccine. Next, vaccine is given to people with particular characteristics (e.g., age and physical health). Then, vaccine is given to tens of thousands of people and tested for effectiveness and safety. After that, the data is reviewed by the FDA which approves the vaccine, and by an independent board, CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) which will make its recommendations for use. These bodies are the final safeguards for the public ensuring any vaccine is both safe and effective.

Please visit [Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States | CDC](#) for more information.

What will be done to prioritize those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19?

DPH and the COVID-19 Command Center are working closely with the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group to establish a distribution plan that prioritizes populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. As public health planners and practitioners, we are committed to engaging these communities in a meaningful way in the planning process, and will build on longstanding community relationships and develop a robust community engagement approach to ensure access.

Once the vaccine is available, where can I go to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Public vaccine clinics including COVID-19 vaccine when available can be found at CDC's interactive website: [vaccinefinder.org](#). Once vaccine is widely available you can also check with your primary care provider, local pharmacy or local health department. Information will also be available on the DPH website.

How many vaccines and what types are in development?

Dozens of vaccines are now in development, and several are moving toward final development. All but one of the COVID-19 vaccines that are currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States require two shots. The first shot starts building protection. A second shot a few weeks later is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer. One vaccine in Phase 3 clinical trials only requires one shot.

Two vaccine makers, [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna](#), have received approval from the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and those vaccines started to arrive in Massachusetts in December. The U.S. government's [Operation Warp Speed](#) initiative goal is to produce and deliver 300 million doses of safe and effective vaccines with the initial doses available before the end of 2020.

Who is authorized to administer vaccinations?

In addition to licensed health care providers, like doctors and nurses and pharmacists, according to the federal CARES Act, vaccinations may be administered by pharmacy interns, certified pharmacy techs, paramedics, and certified medical assistants, under the direct supervision of a primary care provider. When available, all health care institutions including hospitals, community health centers, and private medical offices will have access to the COVID-19 vaccine to vaccinate their patients. Pharmacies including large retail outlets such as CVS, Walgreens, Osco, and Walmart will have access to the vaccine and will be able to vaccinate their customers. Vaccine will likely also be made available to local health departments for vaccinating their local residents at public clinics.

This [COVID-19 Vaccinators chart](#) lists all of the different groups of individuals who can possess and administer COVID-19 vaccines.

Will I have to pay for the vaccine?

[The vaccine is being provided free of charge](#) to all individuals by the federal government. Insurance companies are also committed to not charging any out-of-pocket fees or co-payments related to COVID-19 vaccine administration, and all health care provider sites that receive COVID-19 vaccine must agree to not charge patients any out-of-pocket fees or deny anyone vaccination services.

What are the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated now that COVID-19 vaccines are available in the United States. Please visit [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#) for a summary of the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination based on what we currently know.

What can I expect at my appointment to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

Please visit [What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19 | CDC](#) for tips on what to expect when you get vaccinated, what information your provider will give you, and resources you can use to monitor your health after you are vaccinated.

Do I need to wear a mask when I receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. CDC recommends that during the pandemic people [wear a mask](#) that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside your household, when in healthcare facilities, and when receiving any vaccine, including a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove a mask without assistance should not wear a mask. For more information, visit [considerations for wearing masks](#). (source: [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#) as of 12/21/20)

What can I expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Please visit [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#) for more information.

How do I report if I have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

V-safe is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Through **v-safe**, you can quickly tell CDC if you have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Depending on your answers, someone from CDC may call to check on you and get more information. And **v-safe** will remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one. To sign up for **v-safe**, please visit [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker | CDC](#).

Why would a vaccine be needed if we can do other things, like social distancing and wearing masks, to prevent the virus that causes COVID-19 from spreading?

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask and staying at least 6 feet away from others, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations [to protect yourself and others](#) will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

(source: [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#) as of 12/21/20)

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received two doses of the vaccine?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using **all the tools** available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for [how to protect yourself and others](#) will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

(source: [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#) as of 12/21/20)

When can I stop wearing a mask and avoiding close contact with others after I have been vaccinated?

There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people [wear masks](#) and [avoid close contact with others](#) to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Experts need to understand more

about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision. (source: [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#) as of 12/21/20)

Does immunity after getting COVID-19 last longer than protection from COVID-19 vaccines?

The protection someone gains from having an infection (called natural immunity) varies depending on the disease, and it varies from person to person. Since this virus is new, we don't know how long natural immunity might last. Some early evidence—based on some people— seems to suggest that natural immunity may not last very long.

Regarding vaccination, we won't know how long immunity lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works. Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

(source: [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#) as of 12/21/20)

What is an Emergency Use Authorization?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the federal Food and Drug Administration. Learn more about what this means – and other information about the vaccines – in their EUA fact sheets for recipients and caregivers. These factsheets can be found at:

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers \(fda.gov\)](#) and

[Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers \(fda.gov\)](#)

Where can I get more information?

Visit these frequently updated CDC web pages on COVID-19 vaccination:

- [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- [Myths and Misconceptions about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (newly expanded)

