

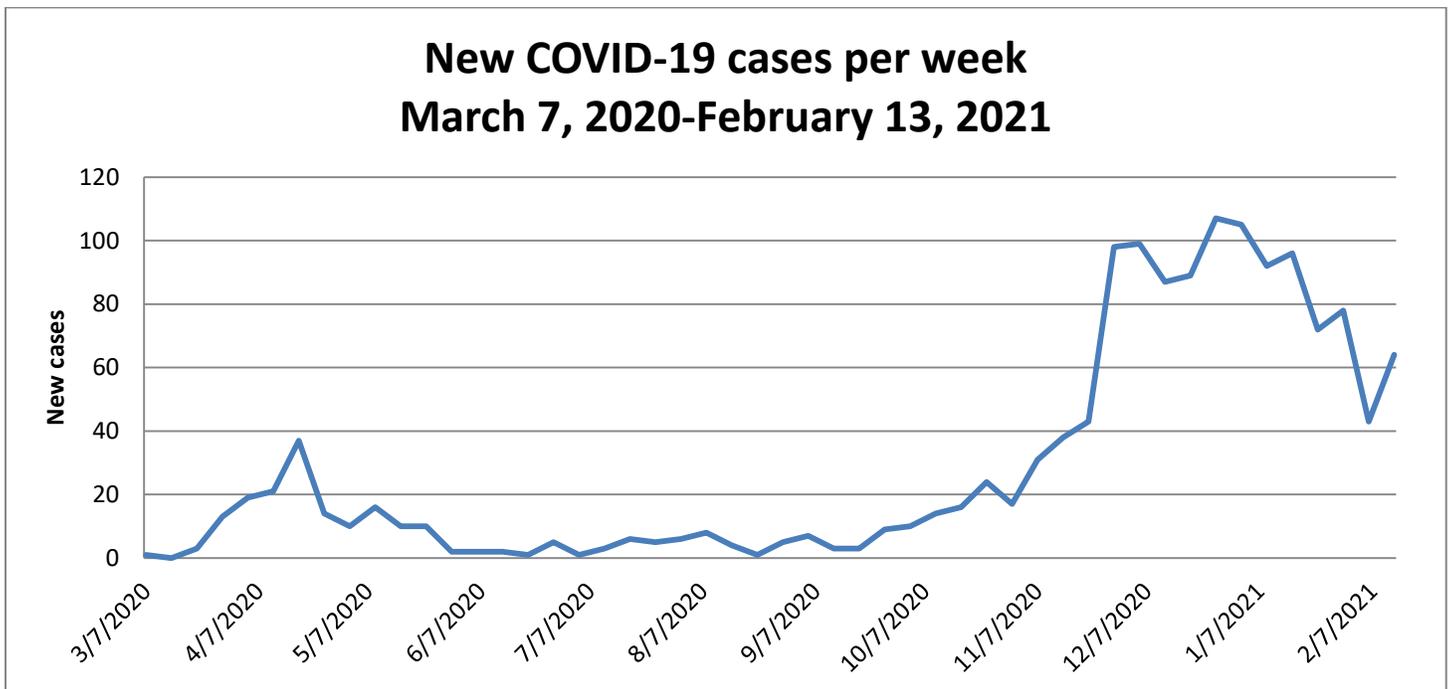
## COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

**February 17, 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	<b>68</b>	(updated 2/17 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	<b>1307</b>	
Total tested positive since beginning:	<b>1397</b>	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	<b>Red</b>	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	<b>22</b>	Last Covid death in Mansfield 01/15/21



**CHARLIE BAKER**  
Governor



**KARYN POLITO**  
Lt. Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**February 17, 2021**

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**Baker-Polito Administration Announces Vaccine Appointment Booking for Individuals Ages 65+, Individuals with 2+ Certain Medical Conditions to Begin on February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BOSTON** – Today, the Baker-Polito Administration announced individuals ages 65 and over and those with 2+ certain medical conditions, including Asthma, can visit [www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine) to start booking an appointment for vaccine beginning tomorrow, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

With this announcement, almost 1 million individuals are newly eligible for vaccine. Due to extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, it could take more than a month for all eligible individuals to secure an available appointment, unless federal supply significantly increases. Recently, Massachusetts has been receiving approximately 110,000 first doses per week from the federal government. Residents are encouraged to keep checking the website as appointments are added on a rolling basis.

**Individuals 65 and over:**

Individuals 65 and over, including residents and staff of low income and affordable public and private senior housing are eligible to receive vaccine effective tomorrow, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Residents and staff of low income and affordable public and private senior housing can learn more about vaccination options [here](#).

**Individuals with 2+ Certain Medical Conditions:**

Individuals 16 and older with two or more of certain medical conditions (defined below) are eligible for vaccine, effective tomorrow.

In concert with CDC guidelines, the Commonwealth has adopted the list of conditions that cause individuals to be at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Massachusetts has also identified moderate to severe asthma as an eligible medical condition.

**Phase 2 eligible conditions:**

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Learn more from [CDC: COVID-19: People with Certain Medical Conditions](#)

### **Mass Vaccination Appointments:**

Tomorrow morning, over 70,000 appointments are scheduled to be posted at mass vaccination sites (Eastfield Mall in Springfield, Double Tree Hotel in Danvers, Fenway Park in Boston and Gillette Stadium in Foxboro).

Details for booking can be found via the [COVID-19 Vaccine Finder](#), which enables residents to search for a vaccination location and view appointment availability before scheduling. The tool can be accessed via the state's vaccination website at [www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/COVIDvaccine) or directly at <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov>.

Individuals that are unable to access appointments via the internet can call 211 and follow the prompts for vaccine appointments.

There are currently over 170 vaccination locations across the Commonwealth. Currently, almost 95% of our population lives within a 45-minute drive of a mass vaccination site or within 30 minutes of a regional (high volume site) - not counting the pharmacies, provider and community health center vaccination sites.

### **Local Boards of Health:**

Today, Local Boards of Health were informed of the Commonwealth's streamlined vaccination distribution plan that prioritizes equity and high-capacity throughput vaccination, particularly as vaccine supply from the federal government remains extremely constrained.

This streamlined distribution plan will increase vaccine access at high throughput vaccination locations such as mass vaccination sites or regional sites and at pharmacy sites. In addition to increasing efficiency in administering the vaccine, the Commonwealth will ensure that the program is equitable and meets the needs of communities that have been the most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Utilizing the social vulnerability index as a starting point, the Department of Public Health has identified 20 municipalities that have had the greatest COVID burden and have the greatest percentage of non-white residents. These municipalities are: Boston; Brockton; Chelsea; Everett; Fall River; Fitchburg; Framingham; Haverhill; Holyoke; Lawrence; Leominster; Lowell; Lynn; Malden; Methuen; New Bedford; Randolph; Revere; Springfield; and Worcester.

These municipalities will continue to distribute vaccine at the local level, are prioritized for the retail pharmacy program, and are served by community health centers and other health care providers administering vaccine.

Local Boards of Health will continue to play a crucial role in our collective plan to curb COVID-19. The Administration is asking Local Boards of Health to support these critical objectives:

- Planning to vaccinate homebound individuals in their community and older adults in private and public low income and affordable housing.
- Encourage residents to get vaccinated at mass vaccination sites, retail pharmacies and other locations that are open to all residents.
- Increase vaccine awareness of safety and efficacy so that when the Commonwealth does have more incoming vaccine from the Federal Government, and as more groups become eligible, communities are ready and willing to accept vaccine.

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### **State Public Health Officials Announce First Identification of South Africa COVID Variant in Massachusetts**

**BOSTON** (February 16, 2021) – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced the first case of the B.1.351 COVID-19 variant identified in the Commonwealth. Genetic sequencing completed at the Broad Institute on behalf of DPH has confirmed the variant, which was originally identified in South Africa.

The case is a female in her 20s who resides in Middlesex County; she has had no reported travel.

The B.1.351 variant is known to spread easily. The Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory is working in collaboration with many healthcare and academic partners to quickly identify variants of concern by sequencing a subset of positive samples.

Two other variants of concern are the B.1.1.7 originally found in the United Kingdom, and the P.1 variant, which was originally detected in Brazil.

Currently, there are 34 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant in Massachusetts; there are no confirmed cases of the P.1.

The best defense against a rapid rise in cases from variants of concern is to prevent the spread of COVID.

New information from CDC shows that improving the fit and filtration of masks helps reduce the spread of the virus. Mask fit can be improved by using a mask with a nose wire and by using a mask fitter or by knotting the ear loops and tucking the sides. Mask filtration is improved by using multiple layers. Learn more about how to use masks to protect yourself and others at [Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 | CDC](#).

Other critical public health measures to help prevent the spread of COVID include social distancing (staying 6 feet away from others), avoiding groups, staying home when you are sick, getting tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID, and getting vaccinated when it is your turn.

Learn more about variants of concern at [New Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19 | CDC](#) and track their presence in both Massachusetts and the US at [US COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants | CDC](#).