

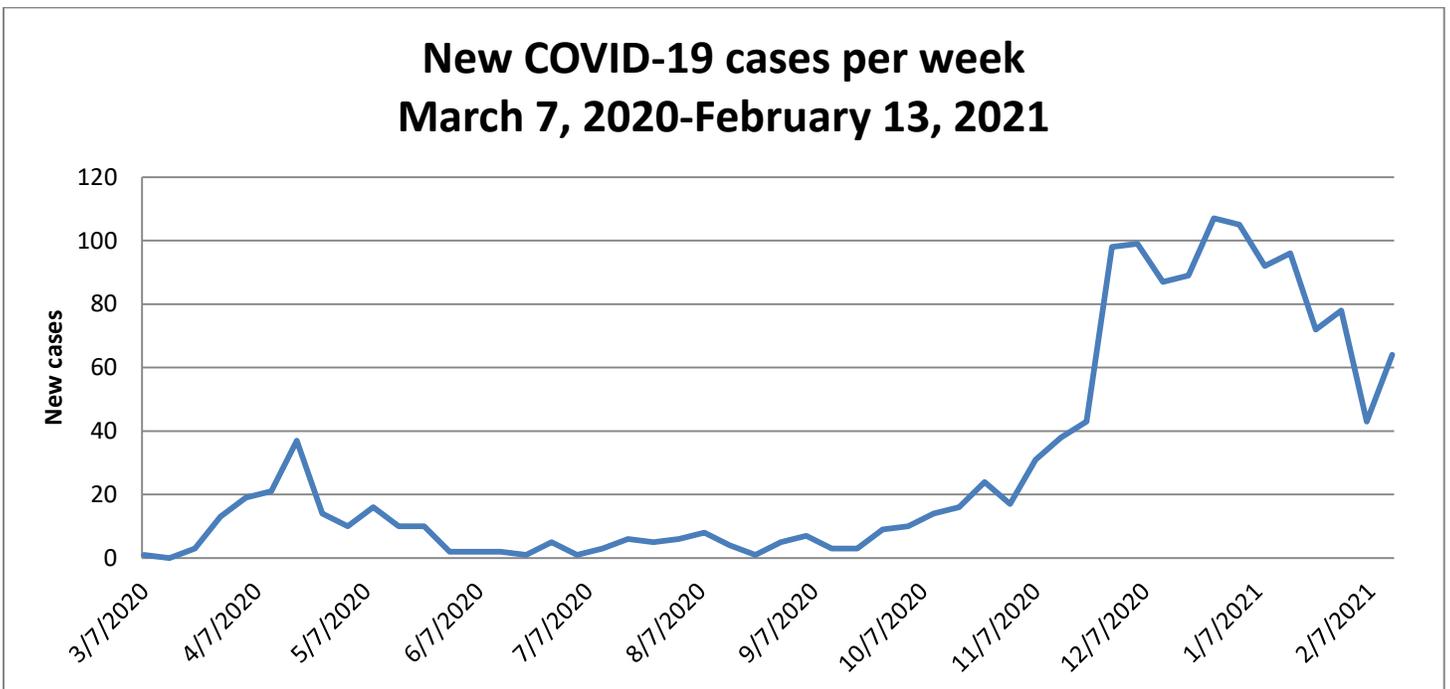
COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

February 19, 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	66	(updated 2/19 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	1321	
Total tested positive since beginning:	1409	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	Yellow	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	22	Last Covid death in Mansfield 01/15/21



Trust the Facts. Get the Vax.

You can trust that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe. Learn more about vaccine safety, how it was developed, and how it works.



- [About the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Vaccines are safe and are one of the best ways to protect yourself and those around you from getting sick from COVID-19.

The vaccine doesn't contain the virus that causes COVID-19, so it can't make you sick. You may experience mild side effects after getting the vaccine, but this is a sign that your body is learning how to protect you.

Massachusetts has started to vaccinate against COVID-19. Here are a few important things to know:

- The vaccine is **free**
- Anyone who **lives, works, or studies** in Massachusetts can get a vaccine
- You can get vaccinated even if you are undocumented. Getting a vaccine will not impact you or your family's immigration status. The Public Charge rule does NOT apply to getting the vaccine.

Right now supplies are severely limited, so Massachusetts is prioritizing who gets the vaccine first. The timeline is made up of 3 phases and prioritized by groups within each phase. The timeline reflects several priorities:

- Protecting our most vulnerable residents
- Maintaining health care system capacity
- Addressing inequities in health care access and focusing on communities with the highest COVID-19 burden

How the vaccine works

Vaccines help our immune system fight infections in the future. The COVID-19 vaccine will protect us from the virus that causes COVID-19 without having to get the illness.

The vaccine will help protect you by teaching your body how to recognize and fight the virus. The vaccine can help keep you from getting COVID-19, but even if you do get the virus, it can keep you from getting very sick.

The COVID-19 vaccine is currently given in **two doses**, about three weeks apart. **You need both doses to be fully protected.** There are currently two companies that make vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer.

It takes a few weeks after the second dose to become fully protected. You may have a sore arm, aches, fatigue, or fever for a few days after getting the vaccine. These symptoms are a sign that your immune system is learning how to protect you from the virus.

Ensuring the vaccine is safe

COVID-19 vaccines available in Massachusetts are made by two companies: Moderna and Pfizer. These vaccines were authorized by the Federal Food and Drug Administration only after they were shown to be safe and effective in studies (called clinical trials).

The U.S. ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Learn how the federal government is working to [ensure the safety of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

In Massachusetts, a group of infectious disease experts reviewed the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines. This workgroup [confirmed](#) that the COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the FDA are safe and effective.

The vaccine is safe even though it happened quickly

We understand the importance of being open and honest about the safety and development of the vaccine— especially for communities who have suffered consequences of medical mistreatment. The COVID-19 vaccine was developed quickly but all of the same safety steps were followed for this vaccine that are used for all vaccines.

Vaccine companies moved quickly because:

- **They used existing research and information on coronavirus:** COVID-19 is part of a family of viruses that has been studied for a long time. The vaccine developers used this existing research to help develop the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Governments funded vaccine research:** The United States and other governments invested a lot of money to help vaccine companies with their work. Working together with other countries also helped researchers move quickly.
- **Tens of thousands of people participated in vaccine studies:** Studies of the vaccine (called Clinical Trials) were conducted to prove the vaccine is safe and effective. Tens of thousands of people signed up for the studies, so companies did not need to spend a lot of time finding volunteers.
- **Manufacturing happened at the same time as the safety studies:** Vaccine companies started making the vaccine at the same time as studies were happening in hopes that it

would be proven safe and effective. This meant vaccines were ready to be distributed once they were approved.

Since the vaccines were approved, **millions of people of different races and ethnicities have been vaccinated**, and most have only experienced mild side effects.

Example COVID-19 vaccine timeline:



Traditional timeline:



- **Current Status of Vaccination Priority Groups**

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Phase 1 & 2 Eligibility Status

Phase	Priority Group	Status
Phase 1	All phase 1 priority groups	Now eligible
	
Phase 2	1 Individuals age 75+	Now eligible
	2 Individuals 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions	Now eligible
	3 Early education and K-12 workers, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers	Not yet eligible
	4 Individuals with 1 certain medical condition	Not yet eligible

Phase 2 (February-March 2021)

Listed in order of priority:

- **Group 1:** [Individuals age 75+](#)
- **Group 2:** [Individuals age 65+](#), [individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions](#), and/or [residents and staff of low income and affordable senior housing](#).
- **Not yet eligible: Group 3:** Other workers, including Early Education and K-12 workers, transit, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers.
- **Not yet eligible: Group 4:** Individuals with one [certain medical condition](#)

More details on all the COVID-19 vaccination phases can be found [here](#).

- **Steps to get your vaccination**

Step 1: Check your eligibility below or [use our tool](#)

Step 2: [Book an appointment](#)

Step 3: [Prepare for your appointment](#)

- **MA Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line**

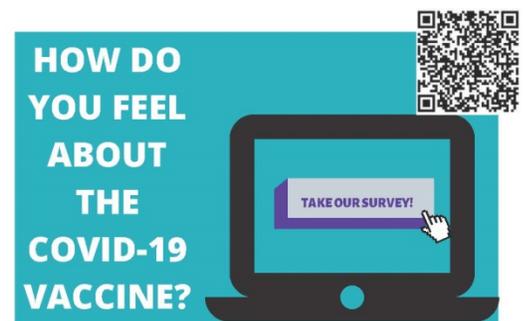
The [Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource](#) Line is available to support people 75 and older to schedule a COVID-19 appointment if they are unable to use or have difficulty accessing the internet.

The call center hours of operation:

- **Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For assistance scheduling, dial 2-1-1 and follow the prompts for vaccine appointments. The Massachusetts Scheduling Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available to support residents in approximately 100 additional languages.

This resource line is not to answer general questions about COVID-19 or provide individual health care advice. **The quickest and easiest way to schedule a vaccine appointment or check availability is to use the online system at mass.gov/covidvaccine.**



The Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps wants to know how **you** feel about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Share your thoughts in our survey **here**:
redcap.link/MAvaccinesurvey

You need to be **18+** to participate and it will take approximately **10 minutes**.

Your answers will be anonymous and completely confidential. This information will be used to inform our work in Massachusetts.



At this point, the Town does not have any vaccine for public distribution. Please go to the [COVID webpage](#) for vaccine information and updates.

- **Massachusetts Caregiver/Companion COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility**

Effective Thursday, February 11th, an individual who accompanies a person age 75 or older to one of four mass vaccination sites to receive the vaccine will be eligible to receive the vaccine too, if they have an appointment booked. **Both the companion and the individual age 75 or older must have an appointment for the same day and both individuals must be present. Only one companion is permitted. The companion must attest that they are accompanying the individual to the appointment.**

[COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](#)

[When can I get the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[COVID-19 frequently asked questions](#)

[How to prepare for your COVID-19 vaccine appointment](#)

- **Find a COVID-19 Test**

Testing for COVID-19 is widely available in Massachusetts. Find a site near you. To learn more about testing for COVID-19 in Massachusetts, please visit mass.gov/GetTested.

- **MassSupport**

MassSupport is the Massachusetts Crisis Counseling Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and managed in partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and Riverside Trauma Center, a program of Riverside Community Care.

Contact MassSupport by phone at **888-215-4920** or by email at MassSupport@riversidecc.org

- **Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center**

In order to provide support to families and communities who have suffered loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Red Cross has developed a Virtual Family Assistance Center (VFAC), staffed by a team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care, and health services volunteers who are:

- Connecting with families over the phone to offer condolences, emotional and spiritual support, and access to available resources
- Providing support for virtual memorial services for families, including connecting with local faith-based community partners
- Hosting online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills
- Assisting families with access to national, state, or local resources such as grief counseling, legal resources, funeral information, financial information services, or veterans' assistance
- Additional state- and local-specific resources are available.

People can visit: <https://www.redcross.org/virtual-family-assistance-center/ma-family-assistance-center.html> to access this resource with special virtual programs, information, referrals, and services to support families in need. People without internet access can **call toll-free 833-492-0094** for help. All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.