

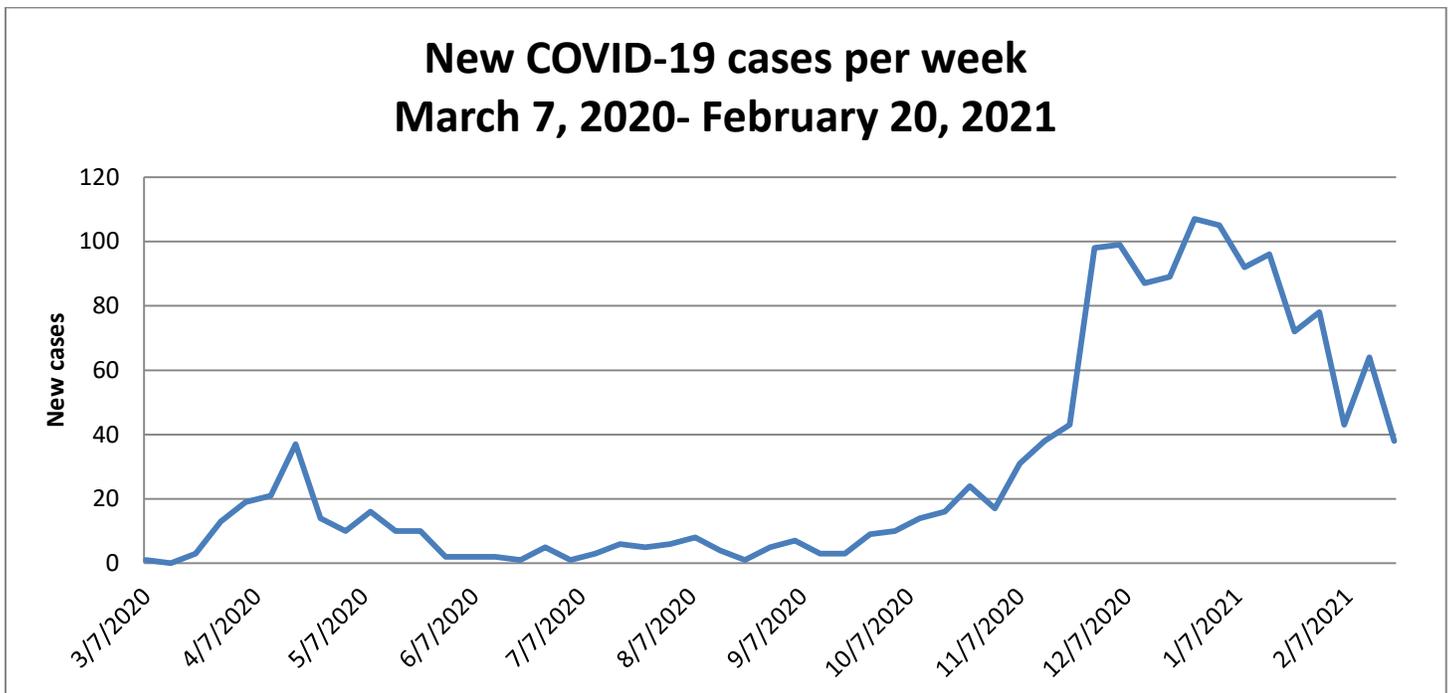
## COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

**February 24, 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>	#	
<b>Positive COVID-19 under isolation</b>	<b>47</b>	(updated 2/22 08:00)
<b>Positive Cases recovered</b>	<b>1362</b>	
<b>Total tested positive since beginning:</b>	<b>1431</b>	
<b>Mansfield Community Designation Level</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
<b>Covid-19 Related Deaths</b>	<b>22</b>	Last Covid death in Mansfield 01/15/21



- [Key Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Because COVID-19 is a new disease with new vaccines, information is rapidly emerging about how vaccines can help us stop the pandemic. CDC will update this page with more information about what we know—and what we don't know—as it becomes available. Learn more [facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Currently, two vaccines are authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#)

Learn more about [the different COVID-19 vaccines](#).

## Help stop the pandemic by getting vaccinated

### What we know

Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

**COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal.** Learn more about the [benefits of getting vaccinated](#).



COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes a few weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. That means it is possible a person could still get COVID-19 just after vaccination. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself until you can get vaccinated. Even after you get vaccinated it's important to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Even after vaccination, take steps to [protect yourself and others from COVID-19](#).

### What we do not know

Although COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting sick, scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to others, even if you do not get sick.

If you are vaccinated against COVID-19, you may still be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. After exposure, people can be infected with or “carry” the virus that causes COVID-19 but not feel sick or have any symptoms. Experts call this “asymptomatic infection.”

For this reason, even after vaccination, we need to continue using all the [tools available to help stop this pandemic](#) as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.

## COVID-19 vaccines are safe

Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe. These vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. Learn more [facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#).

CDC has developed a new tool, [v-safe](#), to help us quickly find any safety issues with COVID-19 vaccines. **V-safe** is a smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. Learn how the federal government is [working to ensure the safety of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

### You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. These are normal signs that your body is building protection. The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination, such as chills or tiredness, may affect your ability to do daily activities, and they should go away in a few days. Learn more about [what to expect after getting vaccinated](#).

## In the coming months, vaccines will become widely available

Although the vaccine supply is currently limited, the federal government is working toward making vaccines widely available for everyone at no cost. Learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines get to you and [who should get vaccinated first when supplies are limited](#).

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to people living in the United States. However, your vaccination provider may bill your insurance company, Medicaid, or Medicare for an administration fee. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for this by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay the vaccine administration fee.

## COVID-19 vaccines and herd immunity

### What we know

Herd immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they've already had the disease or because they've been vaccinated. Herd immunity makes it hard for the disease to spread from person to person, and it even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, like newborns or people



who are allergic to the vaccine. The percentage of people who need to have protection to achieve herd immunity varies by disease.

### **What we do not know**

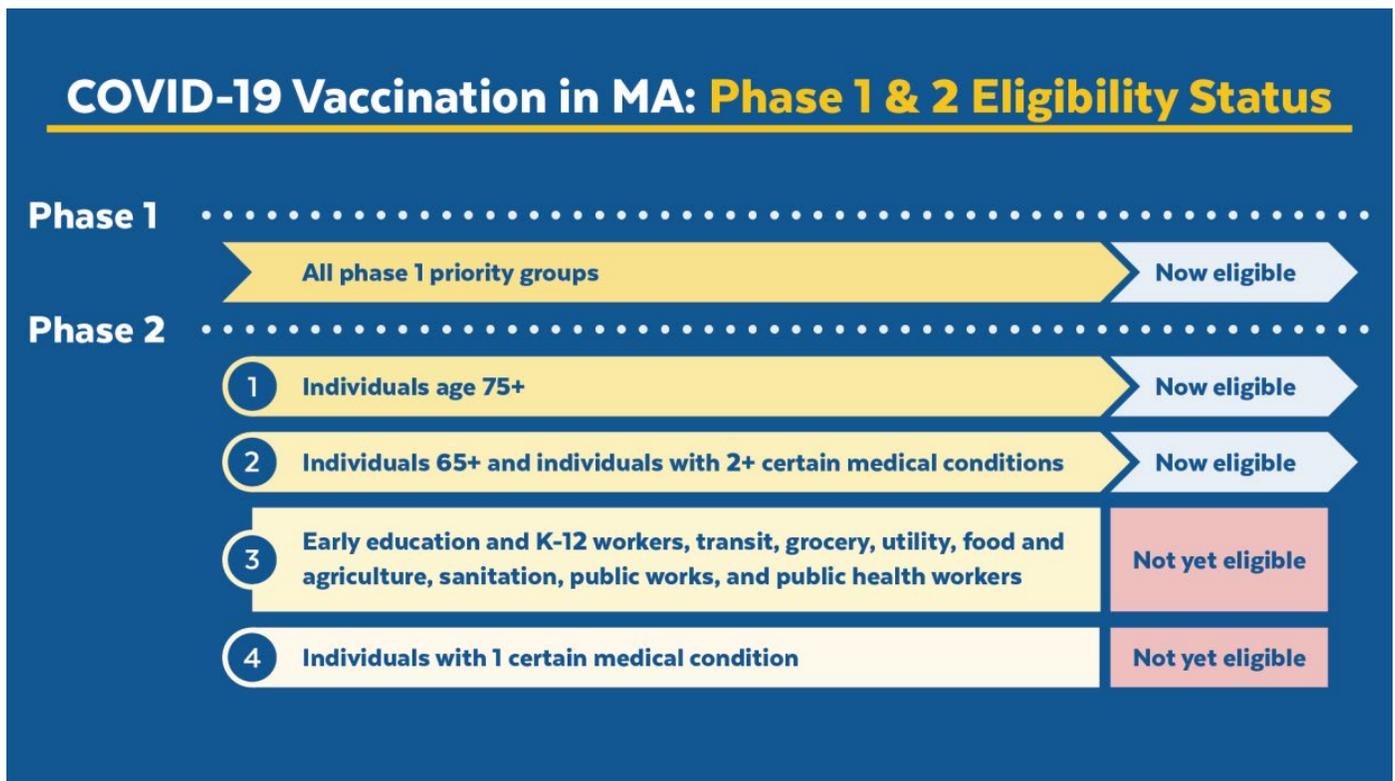
Experts do not yet know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. CDC and other experts are studying herd immunity and will provide more information as it is available.

### **COVID-19 vaccines and new variants of the virus**

CDC is continuing to investigate the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. Scientists also are working to learn about new variants of the virus. More studies are needed to understand how new variants may affect the effectiveness of existing COVID-19 vaccines.

Our knowledge of the characteristics of new variants is rapidly growing. CDC will share updates as soon as they are available. For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>.

- **Current Status of Vaccination Priority Groups**



## 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](https://mass.gov/covidvaccine).**

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](#)

- **Vaccine Hesitance Survey**

The Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps has developed a survey designed to assess the Massachusetts general public's feelings towards the COVID-19 vaccine and what underlying factors are associated with these feelings especially now as the vaccine is becoming available to the public. Its purpose is to assess attitudes of vaccination and degree of vaccine hesitancy among people in Massachusetts. Results will be used to understand communication needs and inform vaccine confidence messaging going forward. We are very much interested in hearing from our academic partners as this is a unique opportunity to learn more about vaccine attitudes in a population of public health students and professionals. Please take a few minutes to complete [this survey](#), share it through your academic outlets, colleagues, friends, family, and acquaintances. The more people take [the survey](#) the better.

**Requirements:** You must be 18 years or older and living in or a resident of Massachusetts

**Time to complete:** 10-15 minutes

**Data collection:** completely anonymous

**Link to the Survey:** <https://redcap.link/MAvaccinesurvey>

**QR Code to access the survey:**

