

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH COVID VAX Planning 1/8/2021



## Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management
- Michael Flanagan, Mary Dozois, and Adam Kinney, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt and Anne Gilligan, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Gerben Scherpbier, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

### **Announcements:**

**-Extension of Order #59:** Limited capacity to 25% was meant to end 1/10, now extended to 1/24. No new rules, just extended.

**-Liability Protections:** "Health care services" provided by a health care facility or health care professional, regardless of location, that involves the treatment, diagnosis, prevention or mitigation of COVID-19. Health care professionals and health care services shall be immune from suit and civil liability for any damages sustained in the course of providing health care services during the period of COVID-19. No need for additional action by municipalities to certify coverage. MAHB will put together a one-pager about

**-COVID-19 variant:** B117, the variant ID'ed in the UK. Does transmit more readily, but does not seem to be more severe. ID'ed in at least 7 states to date, including NY and CT. Massachusetts also doing surveillance but hasn't been ID'ed in Massachusetts, yet.

**Q:** Can testing being done right now test for the new variant?

**A:** Yes. It will pick it up, but it will sequence the sample differently which is indicative of the variant. There are some questions about the monoclonal antibody treatment, but not much about the ability for the test to pick up on the virus.

**-CTC:** Receiving about 5k cases/day. Leads to having about 1 days' worth of cases that have fallen a bit behind. We haven't reached about 1k of these cases within the 24 hour timeframe that we like to follow. Over the weekend high staffing levels and successful outreach during the weekend, confident we'll be able to clear some of these backlogs.

**-Vaccine Phases/[Priority Group](#):** Webpage updated Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm. School nurses, considered in 1<sup>st</sup> priority, if, and only if, they are doing testing sites (BinaxNOW testing) and/or also working in a vaccination clinic. School nurses on their own are not considered first priority. If

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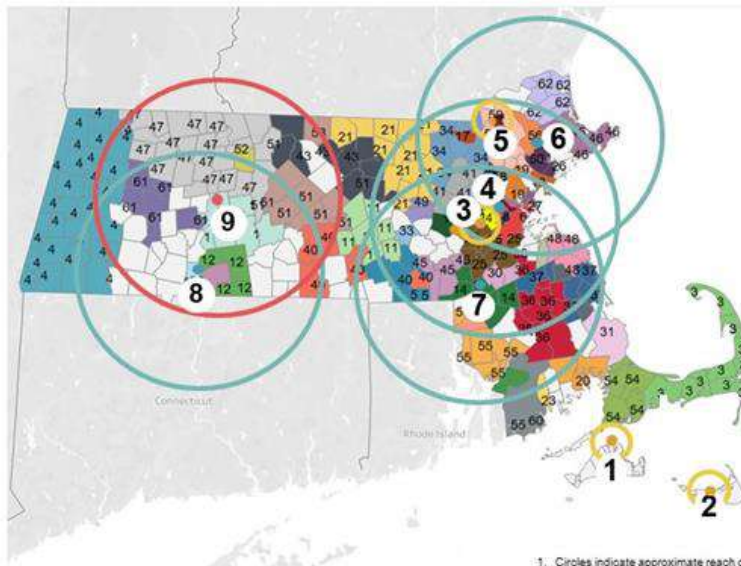
they're working with students regularly, and are not vaccinating or testing, they are in a different category.

Also, harbor masters are going to be added to first responder list.

**-Vaccine Planning:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-first-responders>. Areas with green stars are high-throughput clinics (mass vaccination). Circles are about a 30 mile radius.

### Mass sites and other prov Viewing 20201230 First ... port vaccination efforts

#### LBOH coverage and potential vaccination sites



**-Vaccine specific clinical comments:** You do not need to wait 90 days if you had COVID-19. You must receive 2 shots in order to be fully vaccinated. 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. Vaccines not approved for children at this time.

If you email Jana directly, she might not see your email for a while. For your logistical and operational questions please send them to Lauren Ward ([lauren.ward@mass.gov](mailto:lauren.ward@mass.gov)) and CC Donna Quinn ([Donna.quinn@mass.gov](mailto:Donna.quinn@mass.gov)).

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**Vaccine Planning Long Game:** Mass vaccination sites currently being set up are being planned to stay there until the end of Phase 3. Feedback received was that planning was too “choppy” for all the phases. As we move through the phases, the population sizes get bigger, and it’s extremely difficult to adjust to every single group across the Commonwealth. Who is interested, and able, to do local clinics as part of a plan going forward? Lots of positive response yesterday. DPH will help you with logistics along the way, i.e. PrepMod, ordering vaccine. We acknowledge that if you do this, there are some things that will need to be put to the side. Maybe this means you push contact tracing work out to the CTC.

**Vaccine Allocation:** Survey link will be sent to vaccine recipients points of contacts on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It will contain a series of questions about how many have you vaccinated in the priority groups and how much more do you need to complete the priority group? We will be using this as a mechanism to know if you need additional vaccine. Please respond by Tuesday morning/noon as this allows us the opportunity to look at the information for the future. If you have extra doses and want to go out of the phase you are vaccinating in, try to look back on the previous priority group, but if you are done with them, you can move on to the next bullet. The optics of this are challenging. If you go way out of the priority group there is a lot of attention on who is being vaccinated and this can cause problems politically.

### Questions from Q&A chat box not answered aloud:

7815968864 vaughan - 9:20 AM

**Q:** is texting people a new aspect for CTC?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:24 AM

**A:** This has been part of the process for several weeks. It directs people to an 'inbound' call number and also the website [mass.gov/isol8](https://mass.gov/isol8)

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Jeff Paster - 9:13 AM

**Q:** Hi Mike - you've helped us in the past reviewing civil citation and civil penalty documents Lancaster has issues. We are now going to move to a cease and desist order and I have the form that I think is the correct template called" EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:34 AM

**A:** If you would like DLS to review it you can email it to [safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov](mailto:safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov)

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John Morris - 9:11 AM

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**Q:** Under the governors order for gatherings, can a facility have 2 or more groups on their property if they are restricted to the gathering number and greater than 6 feet away or located on other parts of the property?-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:36 AM

**A:** It depends to a degree on the facility. for specific questions please email safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov

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Edward Weiner - 9:21 AM

**Q:** We have had individuals "Demanding" State documents that support Quarantine and Isolation timelines. ie. 14 Days for the infected followed by days of isolation of family members. Do these "timeline" illustrations exist? Please reference.-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 9:37 AM

**A:** Yes, you can google "Information and Guidance for Persons in Quarantine due to COVID-19" and you will find the timelines.

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Jeff Paster - 9:31 AM

**Q:** Hi Michael - The Town of Lancaster will be issuing a cease and desist order to a local business i have two forms may i ask you to review and assist? want to use correct form-

-Michael Flanagan - 9:38 AM

**A:** If you would like them reviewed please email them to safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov

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Carol Stein-Payne - 9:08 AM

**Q:** When will school nurses and teachers be able to get vaccine?-

-Jana Ferguson - 9:54 AM

**A:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine->