

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Glynnis LaRosa, Laurie A. Courtney, Catherine Reilly, Shumethia Seal, and Rattana Bip, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn and Mary Clark, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Adam Kinney, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt, Anne Gilligan, and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Emily Cooper, Executive Office of Elder Affairs
- Dr. John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association

Announcements:

Phase 2 and Phase 3 COVID-19 Massachusetts vaccine planning: MA is 9th in the US for vax per capita (1st doses/capita) according to the CDC on 2/17. More than 251,000 of our residents 75+ have received their 1st dose. This represents 51% of the statewide population, exceeding the national average of 47% of residents 75+ that have received their first dose. MA Administered 285k total doses last week—exceeding our weekly allocation and shipments into the state. MA is #2 for total shots administered per capita (this week) amongst the 24 states with 5M people according to Bloomberg. Announcement that went out on Wednesday: LHD have played an important role in vaccinating first responders and residents age 75+. As of 2/18, 65+ individuals who have 2 or more specific medical conditions that increase the risk of COVID-19, and individuals living in low income and affordable senior housing (and staff) are now eligible for vaccination. With this additional category, an additional 1 million individuals are eligible to receive the vaccine. The Commonwealth has been receiving up to 110,000 first does each week. This is an inadequate supply to support clinics in every city and town. Given the increase in scale and scope, the Commonwealth must streamline its distribution channels and ensure that vaccine sites are operating at scale. As we move into the next phase, as well as later phases, the administration is asking LHD to focus on these critical needs:

-Promote vaccine acceptance: LHD is uniquely positioned to build vaccine trust in the community and to promote and help navigate community members to existing vaccination sites. Engage communities most affected by COVID-19 and use feedback to inform community engagement, public awareness campaigns, FAQ, social media, and other communications

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



materials. Work with community health workers and other trusted community members, such as CHC, nutrition programs, members of the faith community, COAs, Aging and disability service agencies, such as Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs) and Independent Living Centers (ILCs), to address barriers to access. Address logistical and operational requirements for vaccinations and focus on cross-cutting populations, such as: indigenous people, those with access and functional needs, and those living in rural settings, as appropriate. Municipalities can utilize DPH COVID ambassadors to support the community in vaccine awareness and promote awareness through tele-town halls, municipal social messaging, and other media platforms. Provide or arrange for transportation to mass vax sites or other regional sites for residents. There are campaigns/materials/messages developed by the Commonwealth available to integrate into your efforts. Explore the [Trust the Facts, Get the Vax](#) campaign

-Support vaccination of residents/staff in public and private low income and affordable senior housing: First step is to identify low income and affordable senior housing units in your community. Second step is to provide education materials in different languages, encouraging housing residents and staff to be vaccinated. Assist housing owners and managers in distributing these materials and in answering questions to reduce vaccine hesitance. Third step is to partner with the housing owner or manager to administer vaccines. You may request vaccine from DPH for this purpose and may directly administer the vaccine to residents. This is still an option for all communities. Alternatively, you may want to identify a local provider, such as EMS, CHC, or independent pharmacy, to vaccinate residents and staff of the senior affordable housing properties. There is some confusion about the housing site also needing to provide a survey in addition to the MCVP survey request. Housing agencies cannot order vaccine on their own. They are asking for your PIN so it can be flagged as a partnership. If you have any questions email: seniorhousingvaccine@mass.gov Ron O'Connor also released a guidance document for how to work with senior housing.

-Support vaccination of homebound residents who cannot access another vaccination program: More information on the way, going to provide screening documents to standardize efforts.

-Step 1, identify homebound residents in need of this service.

-Step 2, for individuals who can access public vaccination sites but require transportation or other supports, work in partnership with CoA, ASAPs, application regional transit authorities (RTAs), health plans and others to connect people to relevant support and transportation. MassHealth provides free transportation to vaccine appointments to any individual that has any type of MassHealth coverage or Health Safety Net Coverage. Also, transporting people via Uber, for example, is a reimbursable cost through FEMA.

-Step 3, refer individuals to the statewide in-home vaccination program or partner with local providers to administer in-home vaccinations (state in-home vaccination program launching in March).

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



Option 1: order vaccine or partner with a provider to administer the vaccine to homebound residents.

Option 2: refer homebound residents to a new statewide in-home vaccination program for homebound individuals.

-Step 4, DPH will provide a form for proposals, evaluate requests, and work with you to allocate vaccine.

-Establish a regional collaboration to administer vaccine in a key area identified by DPH, such as “vaccine deserts”: DPH has identified key geographic areas where the LHDs have been or may be asked to propose regional partnerships to offer vaccine and are open to the eligible public while meeting the needs of local residents. These sites supplement access to mass vax sites, pharmacies, hospitals, and other locations for vaccine. Regional partnerships currently exist and provide vaccine in Barnstable, Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Middlesex, Worcester, and Plymouth Counties. The state will supply vaccine to approved regional collaborations that meet the following criteria:

- vaccinate minimally 750 individuals per day 5 days per week
- serve unmet need geographically as identified first by DPH
- meet an administration rate threshold of 85% and report doses within 24 hrs
- serve all residents of the Commonwealth—collaborations may focus outreach efforts locally for those who live or work in the area but must be open to all Massachusetts residents
- provide public links for vaccine appointments on mass.gov/covidvaccine.

The application for regionalization will include the following steps:

Step 1: Verify that your plan meets all the criteria before submitting it for review

Step 2: Identify a lead community as well as any/all other communities that will participate in support of the vax efforts

Step 3: Complete a form that will be provided to you

Step 4: DPH will evaluate your plan, site location, request, and existing vaccine supply to determine whether an allocation commitment can be made

-Promote equity by vaccinating individuals in disproportionate impact communities: DPH has identified 20 of the most disproportionately impacted communities and will continue to provide vaccine to these municipal vaccine programs in these areas if the vaccine program meets specific equity objectives. Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, Worcester.

DPH will support community based approaches in these 20 communities to increase vaccine awareness and access. Beginning 2/22, DPH will pair these communities with a DPH community liaison to leverage and coordinate state resources and customize a menu of options to complement existing efforts. These municipalities may receive doses weekly to meet the needs of priority populations if they meet the 85% administration threshold. If you represent

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



one of these 20 communities, and would like to vaccinate your residents, the following should be done:

Step 1: Establish partnerships with local stakeholders and leaders, such as CHCs, nutrition programs, members of faith in the community, community-based organizations, or human services providers.

Step 2: Identify residents who: are historically under resourced and may have barriers to seeking or receiving vaccine--such as BIPOC populations; do not speak English or prefer to speak in another language; do not have access to public transportation or have barriers getting to a vax site; do not feel comfortable receiving the vaccine in a traditional healthcare setting; have disabilities or access and functional needs.

Step 3: In coordination with DPH community liaison, work with your community partners to develop a plan for tailored outreach and access.

Step 4: Share plan with your DPH community liaison.

Step 5: DPH will evaluate your request and allocate as supply allows.

Other updates: The Coalition for LPH will be hosting a webinar to go through Public Health Excellence Grant Program and successful strategies from previous grantees. Save the Date for March 1st.

If you want to partner with MRC contact your unit coordinator. Volunteers need to through [MA Responds](#) to be processed.

Questions answered out loud:

Q: 85% admin threshold?

A: The data is reported by a provider for the shots in arms to MIIS (through PrepMod). DPH has the info about how many doses were shipped, if there were any transfers of the vaccine, and how many were administered to people. Requests that come in from all providers are due by 5pm on Tuesday and the data is pulled at the same time as the request, then DPH reviews the administration rates. Mass vax sites as meant to complete 95% administration rate. Local clinics are 65%, all other locations are 85%.

Q: 2nd doses?

A: There is a commitment to make sure people get their second doses from your last 1st dose order.

Q: Data discrepancies of what you think you have in stock and what's reported in MIIA

A: Please let us know about this. Contact vaccine manage unit. Sometimes this occurs due to transfers, you may have transferred this to someone and they didn't accept it.

Q: Shipping delays and postponed clinics?

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



A: New information about shipping, Pfizer was delayed because of weather in the Midwest, order has been currently packed up and is on their way. Sites should have received an automatic email with the tracking number. Ancillary kits are also being delivered.

Q: Which vaccine should be used for homebound individuals?

A: Don't have the answer to this right now. We have Pfizer and Moderna, and obviously there are challenges in maintaining the vaccines.

Q: Observation period still in place? Pharmacists are telling people to browse the aisles as they wait.

A: Yes, no matter where the vaccine is being administered an observation period must be put in place. Also, the browsing comment will be shared with pharmacists on the state call for them.

Q: Website to get an appointment?

A: Mass.gov/covidvaccine.

Q: Prioritizing individuals who are struggling to find appointments?

A: There has been success with calling 2-1-1 for those who can't go online. Some communities are also working with their COA to provide transportation for these individuals. Also helping to manage expectations. The Governor said it might take a month to get an appointment. Have also been hearing from a lot of local clinics that if another priority group opened up they could provide vaccine to those individuals. This is an example of the value of the mass vax sites because it does not allow for vaccines to remain idle.

Q: Eligibility for vaccines?

A: You can be vaccinated in Massachusetts if you live, work, or study here. You don't need to have residential address. This has been the eligibility all along.

Q: Updating travel requirements for people who have had COVID-19 and the vaccine?

A: We have discussed it within DPH and have provided a recommendation but we don't have more of an update right now.

Q: Camps?

A: Working with camping industry for guidance and then going to work off that.

Q: inventory going negative because of extra doses?

A: If you have an extra dose, mark it as administered, and it will not make your supply negative.

Q: FEMA Reimbursement?

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



A: More information next week.

Q: Are we now using the 1170 number for Pfizer.

A: Any vaccine ordered this week, and shipped out next week, will be packaged as 1170, the vials will still say 5 doses, but the actual vials will have 6 doses.

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

Kayla Davis - 9:05 AM

Q: Hello, Is there any new or pending guidance for outdoor dining with Spring around the corner? Thank you for your time!-

-Mike Coughlin - 9:06 AM

A: DLS is not on today's call but I am unaware of any pending new guidance for dining at this time.-

-Adam Kinney - 9:10 AM

A: At this time we don't have anything new that I am aware of. Since indoor dining is allowed, outdoor dining would at this time be the same as it was prior to cold weather.

Ellen DuPont - 8:59 AM

Q: vaccine, second dose how long can you wait between them, -

-Laurie Courtney - 9:08 AM

A: Ellen - 2nd doses should be given as close to the rec interval as possible; if must be delayed, try to give within 6 weeks; if delayed beyond that, give asap (do not restart series). see the clinical considerations for full details

Ben Margro - 9:07 AM

Q: If a restaurant wants to hold a St. Patrick's day event. Does it follow the restaurant 40% limit or does the State gathering order limits supersede this as a private/public event?-

-Adam Kinney - 9:09 AM

A: We would need more information on what they are planning. You can email me at adam.kinney@mass.gov

Terri Guarino - 9:12 AM

Q: Is there guidance forthcoming for prom and graduation ceremonies?-

-Mike Coughlin - 9:14 AM

A: There is no guidance for May-June events at this time. As we get closer to that time of year we will share information as it is available.-

-Helene Bettencourt - 9:20 AM

A: DESE is working on guidance for prom and graduation ceremonies.

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



Aaron Langlois - 9:01 AM

Q: Aaron Langlois, chair Oakham BOH - need clarification pls- "should a school nurse or school district provide any official instruction to employee or student about timeframes of quarantine or isolation?" they regularly contradict the BOH, despite requests.-

-Anne Stronach - 9:22 AM

A: Here is the link for protocols for responding to COVID scenarios which addresses timeframe for quarantine <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/>-

-Anne Stronach - 9:27 AM

A: If you have additional concerns in your community please feel free to reach out to me.
anne.marie.stronach@mass.gov

James Fiorentini - 9:18 AM

Q: Is everyone in the senior/low income housing eligible, or only people 65 and up?-

-emily cooper - 9:28 AM

A: everyone living or working in senior affordable housing is eligible to vaccinated regardless of age or health status

Heidi Porter - 9:20 AM

Q: "order vaccine" for sr low income housing. Is this done through the weekly survey or other mechanism.-

-emily cooper - 9:30 AM

A: Yes. This is done through the weekly MCVP survey. However, the housing agency must also complete a survey before the vaccines can be allocated

Kristin Kennedy - 9:27 AM

Q: If we order for our Housing Authority Monday 2/22, can we expect to have the vaccine in hand the week of 3/2? Our plan is ready to go, we just need the vaccine to execute- all surveys from HA are complete.-

-emily cooper - 9:33 AM

A: You need to order through the regular weekly MCVP process. If you submit an order on 2/23 you can expect to hear about whether the request was approved by Friday 2/26. Note that the housing agency must also submit a required planning survey

B Eichstaedt - 9:41 AM

Q: Are caregivers eligible for 65+ at mass sites too? Or 75+ only?-

-Mike Coughlin - 9:42 AM

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



A: no, the companion arrangement is only available for 75+-

Maribeth Ting - 9:24 AM

Q: I would like some clarification of DESE new transportation guidance. 2 middle and high schools / bench - is generally standard bus usage. i don't understand why this would be suggested for high prevalence communities. -

-Helene Bettencourt - 9:42 AM

A: The strategies outlined in the transportation guidance is guidance. Each district should review the guidance and develop a transportation plan that works for their community.

James Fiorentini - 9:43 AM

Q: can the observation period be done in the car if we have observers in the parking lot? we want to set up a mass clinic in the spring or summer and would like to do it outside-

-Katie Reilly - 9:47 AM

A: yes, you should have a designated observation parking area, ideally being monitored by clinical personnel -

Mark Morin - 9:39 AM

Q: How does DPH "equity" plan NOT violate the equal protection clause of the US Constitution, to with No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any per-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 9:49 AM

A: 14th Amendment requires states to govern impartially and not draw distinctions between people based solely on differences that are irrelevant to a legitimate governmental objective. I would submit that equity is a legitimate governmental objective.

Bill Sapelli - 9:44 AM

Q: Can State funded Housing Authority Directors directly order vaccines for their population or should the Health Department order for them. They are telling the Health Director that we should provide them with our PIN number which we refuse to do at this time-

-emily cooper - 9:50 AM

A: The housing authority must submit a required planning survey but cannot order the vaccine. They need to partner with an MCVP provider to order the vaccine and vaccinate the residents/staff. The housing survey requires info about the provider including PIN

susan sarni - 9:05 AM

Q: Are second doses guaranteed to be delivered? -

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



-Shumethia Seal - 9:52 AM

A: Second doses are prioritized, but sites must request the 2nd doses.

Barbara reardon - 9:54 AM

Q: Do vaccine requests for public housing agencies have to be in multiples of 100?-

-emily cooper - 9:54 AM

A: for moderna the requests have to be in increments of 100

Kristin Black - 9:54 AM

Q: Did I just hear that we have to do Housing Authority clinics on site only?-

-emily cooper - 9:55 AM

A: onsite or offsite at a mutually agreeable location-

Kristin Kennedy - 9:53 AM

Q: How do we let you know that our ask is for HA- add a note?-

-emily cooper - 9:55 AM

A: Please add a note in the notes section of the survey

Michele Schuckel - 9:54 AM

Q: Can you post a link to the housing agency survey? Thanks so much.-

-emily cooper - 9:56 AM

A: survey that housing agencies must complete can be found at
https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/senior_affordable_housing_vaccination_planning_survey-

Shaun McAuliffe - 9:54 AM

Q: When should local boards of health submit their survey for housing? Is it on a weekly basis?-

-emily cooper - 9:56 AM

A: Yes, on a weekly basis. But the housing agency must have submitted their planning survey first

Frank Giacalone - 9:55 AM

Q: If we order vaccines for senior housing and they give us an estimate, what do we do for the "extra" doses not given...-

-emily cooper - 9:58 AM

A: you need to have a plan in place for vaccinating eligible people with any extra doses

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/19/2021



Frank Giacalone - 9:27 AM

Q: Regional Partnerships: Why is the North East Regional group which was spearheaded in Newburyport not listed, mentioned or refused vaccines for OUR regional group.-

-Jana Ferguson - 10:01 AM

A: I specifically invited this group to participate and continue and both of my emails have been ignored.-

Kathy Whittaker - 9:40 AM

Q: If vaccine is borrowed from ordering provider how does the provider know I administered it? I have submitted it to MIIS.-

-Shumethia Seal - 10:01 AM

A: If you borrowed vaccine, the vaccine should be transferred in the MIIS to your site. Now the vaccine belongs to you, and when you report should deduct from your inventory.

Ruth Clay - 9:40 AM

Q: Can MIIS correct our previous shipments of Pfizer vaccine from 975 to 1170? We cannot do transfers when it shows we have used more vaccine than we have.-

-Shumethia Seal - 10:02 AM

A: We cannot correct previous shipments. Shipments that are received next week will show as 1170.