

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/2/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health
- Donna Quinn and Mary Clark, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management
- Michael Flanagan and Adam Kinney, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt and Anne Gilligan, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Commissioner Amy Kershaw and Jhana Wallace, Department of Transitional Assistance
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative

Announcements:

CTC: Been able to work on time with the cases you are sending to us, able to make initial outreach on the same day. Reaching about 85-90% of people that you send to us in the first couple of days. CTC still taking about 70% of MA cases per day. CTC surge capacity has been reduced; they were temporary employees. Also, have been able to connect potential monoclonal antibody candidates to the hospitals. Reminder: any specific information about a case or a contact has to be communicated through a secure platform. In this case it is SharePoint between LBOH and Local Health Liaison.

Isolation and Quarantine Good Program: Officially launched as of last week. CTC/LBOH have identified food security as a top concern for a portion of those individuals/families isolating or quarantining due to COVID-19. Challenges include:

- Availability and quantity of nutritious, culturally appropriate food, along with access to other basic needs such as prescriptions, diapers, cleaning supplies and PPE; and
- Reliable, consistent transportation or delivery options, especially in certain neighborhoods/areas.

Helping to meet the food access/basic needs of those isolating/quarantining, who cannot do so for themselves, is key to the ability of individuals and families to maintain isolation/quarantine. A survey was conducted in December of LBOH and local EMDs to identify community needs/capacity to run the program.

Program Overview:

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-Food boxes/gift cards to municipalities to distribute directly to food insecure people in isolation and quarantine.

-Gift cards allow for individual food preferences or other needs (baby food/formula, diapers, toiletries, etc.)

-Closed referral; need identified via CTC Care Resource Coordinators or via LBOH contract tracing.

-Statewide Food Security Coordinator to troubleshoot community challenges/provide technical support.

Basic program operations:

-Close collaboration between local health and EMDs.

-Rely on existing processes and infrastructure to identify need, store, and distribute supplies, and track impact.

-EMDs have capacity to support logistics, access, storage, and delivery

-LBOHs have capacity to identify need, provide ongoing support to households

-Continue to utilize existing local resource isolation and quarantine boxes and gift cards to fill gaps

-Screen households for SNAP and WIC eligibility, support application, if needed.

Isolation and quarantine food program update:

-Food boxes became available starting 1/28. 1,362 boxes delivered to 14 municipalities.

-Gift cards: pilot program in 3 municipalities starting week of 2/1. Likely available for all communities mid-February.

Program implementation: new partnerships have been developed/are in development to support implementation (i.e. storage, pick-up, delivery) including municipal agencies, VOAD/COAD, national and local agencies and organizations, colleges, high schools, and other state agencies. Increased capacity to screen for SNAP/WIC eligibility and support applications if needed (CTC Care Resource Coordinators). Increased outreach for SNAP/WIC by using postcards in several languages.

Q: Do you have a timeframe for the grocery cards?

A: Mid-February. Will be geographically sensitive for all parts of MA.

Q: Are the flyers available in different languages?

A: The flyer is not client-facing. It's for LBOH and EMDs. [SNAP](#) and [WIC](#) flyers are in multiple languages.

COVID-19 Vaccination Updates:

Process and Timelines for requesting vaccines: This will include requesting vaccines for second doses. There are [PDFs](#) available about how and who to contact for MCVP enrolled providers. There is [a calendar](#) (*links to both Moderna and Pfizer*) that has been added to the website that can help people manage the timing to order second doses. You'll recall that second doses would be sent automatically, and now you have to order. For those who had first responder

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clinics, you did receive second doses last week, perhaps yesterday, these were for the second doses during the first responder clinics. That is the last time we will be automatically sending out the second doses. Any additional vaccine not captured in the automatic shipment you've received, you need to order. This calendar can help you determine when to order vaccines. You want to order enough time in advance so you can get the order in, but able to receive the vaccine enough time in advance to hold your clinic in the right time period for vaccinating second doses. Many of you are using Moderna vaccine. The calendar is for the Moderna vaccine. There is a separate calendar for Pfizer. Flow chart also being developed to help visualize this process.

Q: Homebound patients, any specific guidelines for homebound, and observing them, and transferring vaccine?

A: There are some roles LHDs can have in supporting more vulnerable residents who cannot make it to vaccine clinics. Document came out today and gives good updates for operational considerations for how to transport pre-drawn syringes (*I could not find this online*). Additional information on CDC website.

Q: Does it matter what COVID test someone takes to make sure they are not infected?

A: Can't answer right now.

Q: Federal shipments to retail pharmacies? We can administer vaccines much faster.

A: To get doses from federal government, people need to have updated records of the doses you've administered and this is why it's so important to close a clinic on PrepMod right after you finished a clinic. This can affect what the federal government sends to us.

Q: Quarantine guidelines after someone has been vaccinated?

A: At this time no update to quarantine guidelines. We will look into this some more.

Also, no current change for the travel order.

Q: Scheduling second doses?

A: If you order enough in advance in accordance with the calendar then you should be assured, you'll get vaccine. There could be shipping/manufacturing issues but if you follow the schedule you should be on time.

Q: Priority groups/Phases, and the timing for the next priority groups?

A: No timeline on this right now. You can anticipate it could be a couple weeks, at least. Could be longer than this. No one should be vaccinating school staff at this time, or out of priority group. This includes pharmacies, physician groups, etc.

PrepMod questions: Aware that it has some challenges. If people don't find a particular appointment open, they get redirected to the PrepMod page. Some communities find that their appointments are being booked by people who should not be at that site. People are finding that those going to mass vax sites are the ones filling up appointments in areas they don't need to. If you are scheduling your clinic, be super clear on the instructions about it being a private clinic/what your eligibility requirements are. You don't need to turn people away if they arrive,

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the goal is to put vaccines into people's arms. Also have heard about people booking multiple appointments, unfortunately no way to stop this. People are also registering for clinics in other systems.

Take a look at the [website](#) it's been changed; categories have been made more clear.

Q: Requirement to be a MA resident to be vaccinated?

A: No requirement for people to prove they are a MA resident, but clinics are being advertised as having to be for Massachusetts residents only.

Q: Can the map of vaccine locations can show only sites that actually have vaccine?

A: Not available, but if you don't have vaccine then PrepMod won't show appointments.

Q: Can Mass residents be vaccinated in other states?

A: Sure, but it might interrupt ordering for a second dose.

Q: Phase 2, group 3 categories.

A: Within Phase 2, bullets prioritize the group, sub-bullets explain who is in that group.

Senior housing vaccines—different channels to get vaccine for priority groups to get vaccinated. When a priority group (i.e. housing groups) become eligible, they will have their own allocation amount. This number is available to elder affairs. These agencies (housing groups) are partnering with providers, and it could be that LBOH requests the vaccine, but its super important that housing agencies are also talking to their agency lead so it's clear everyone is working together when ordering vaccine.

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

Shelly Newhouse - 3:09 PM

Q: Are there thoughts on changing quarantine guidelines for those that are vaccinated?

-John Welch - 3:10 PM

A: So far there is no CDC updates on changes to I & Q based on vaccination status.

Helen Symons - 3:16 PM

Q: Can you post a link to that poster it was impossible to read the slide with the link-

-Ron O'Connor - 3:16 PM

A: We will send the flyer after the webinar-

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