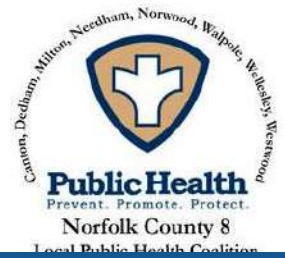


Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/23/2021



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, and Shumethia Seal, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn and Mary Clark, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Michael Flanagan and Adam Kinney, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt, Anne Gilligan, and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Gerben Scherpbier, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Dr. John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative

Announcements:

CTC: Cases continue to trend down, and the CTC is guided by the needs of the pandemic. Currently receiving between 800-1000 cases a day, and we are staffed adequately for this. We will be reviewing the need for our expansive staff as cases trend down. Current contract is through the end of June, originally was designed for the end of March.

COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Survey: Set up by the APHVC. The purpose of the survey is to assess attitudes about 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. Requirements: must be 18 years old and a resident of Massachusetts or living in the state (ex. College students). Time to complete: 10-15 minutes. Data collection: completely anonymous. QR code to access the survey and the link to the survey is <https://redcap.link/MAvaccinesurvey>

Questions from emails:

Q: Does 211 assist the 65+ and 2 comorbidities group or just 75+?

A: Only people who do not have internet access and are eligible to receive vaccine at this time. 400-500 call takers, and they usually return calls within 30 min depending on call volume. [Open 24 hrs a day. 7 days a week.](#) All calls are free and confidential. Interpreter services are available in multiple languages.

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Q: Residents are calling some of the LHDs and saying that when they called 211 they would only be helped if they are registering for a mass vax sites.

A: The mass vax sites are prioritized but they can assist with any public site as [shown on the pins in the map](#).

Q: We directed someone to 211 and they were directed to use the internet.

A: Could have happened that someone misunderstood the service of 211 and mentioned to the 211 representative that they have internet.

Q: When will the travel order and isolation and quarantine protocols be revised to reflect new guidance from CDC?

A: DPH has provided input to the Secretary and the Governor but haven't heard anything else from them.

Q: I am hearing that some vaccine sites (at least pharmacy ones) are only providing second doses if the first dose was given by them as well (I'm unsure if the same is true for the state's mass vax sites). As local clinics wind down, even at our 2nd dose clinics, we will be likely pulling more than 100 doses from the vials and will put those into arms anyway so that they are not wasted; how do we advise people to get their 2nd dose? Can the state require them to honor any 2nd dose, regardless of where the first was given? What does someone need to provide to receive their second dose?

A: Mass vax clinics as well as retail pharmacies should be able to provide the second dose even if they didn't get the vaccine at the site. If there are specific examples please provide them and we can follow up. Also, there has been guidance for people to come back to the site because local clinics will receive the second dose according to how many were administered the first time around. People should try to keep their administration card. If they don't have the card, there is a possibility for the provider to access MIIS to identify the vaccine that the person receives and if it was in Massachusetts. If there is a situation where you don't know what type of vaccine the individual got, [CDC](#) mentions that you should give them whatever is available. You should wait at least 28 days between doses.

Q: At our first public clinic with 100 doses, we pulled 110 doses. What are the plans to provide the needed doses, considering that shipments are coming in 100-dose lots? We will need 120 doses because we pulled additional vaccine during our public safety clinics as well.

A: You should request the 2nd doses that you need, we cannot break down the Moderna order to less than 100. There are other options that we sometimes provide, like transferring from another site, but hopefully you can continue to get extra doses out like you did with the 1st dose allotment.

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Q: DPH has indicated that it would like LHDs to perform the in-person vaccinations for homebound people. I know DPH indicated that guidance will be coming in mid-March, but I have to wonder how we accomplish that when vaccine is being shipped in 100 dose lots?

A: DPH is still working on a plan. It will basically breakdown into 3 paths:

- 1) opportunities for LBOH to do this themselves but recognizing the complexities of this, for example, if you have less than 100 homebound individuals.
- 2) Second option is participating in the state option of a mobile provider. State is going with a local vendor.
- 3) Third option is to partner with the vendor, gathering information from the community, taking calls, and working with the vendor to go out into the community.

Guidance will be released earlier than mid-March, but the initiative will probably take place end of March. When planning for homebound visits, remember to build in the time for the observation period. Also, we are still unaware of how J&J vaccine will play into this. Also, information about transporting single dose/punctured vials can be found in the [CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit](#).

Q: Do you anticipate that new COVID provider agreement and MIIS PIN will be required even if the collaboration has existing provider agreements for COVID vaccine?

A: If you are receiving vaccine through the state, you do not need to update this information. If this is referring to a different type of collaboration, the group receiving the vaccine needs to have the MCVP agreement completed and have a MIIS PIN.

Q: We anticipate our private sector partner to be managing the vaccine through their MIIS account. Is this appropriate?

A: The site (no matter public or private) who receives the vaccine must have the MCVP agreement.

Q: Will the shipping delays and postponed clinics this week impact our ability to get vaccine next week? We won't meet administration thresholds due to postpone shipment when we submit next week's survey.

A: This will be taken into account when we do vaccine allotments.

Q: Can you confirm whether PrepMod communicates with MIIS?

A: Yes, data entered into PrepMod is automatically sent to MIIS. If you are not seeing your data in MIIS after you've submitted the clinic through PrepMod, email: prepmod.help@mass.gov

Q: Do you have a way to contact MIIS about their discrepancies? Emails go unanswered and the phone number has a message to email.

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A: Yes, very busy, high volume is making us respond longer.

Q: Can you clarify if we need to prepare for Saturday deliveries or if they will be delayed until next week?

A: Normally, sites would not be required to receive vaccines on Saturday. This was caused by weather conditions across the country.

Q: Has delayed Moderna shipment notification gone out as well? We have not received either notification or vaccine.

A: If you are referring to orders from February 12th, notifications were not brand specific. Those shipments must have arrived by now. If they haven't contact Shumethia Seal.

Q: How do we guarantee second dose when we had 7 extra doses out of a lot of 100? There is no guarantee we will get the 7 extra doses in our second dose shipment.

A: We are limited that Moderna comes in 100 dose increments. In the past, providers have reached out asking for additional doses, and we can work with you to come up with a solution.

Q: What do we do if we only get 9 does out of a vial?

A: If you get 9 does out of the Moderna 10-dose vials, you need to report that last dose as a "lost dose". On the other hand, if you had 11 doses out of 10, we would not expect you to do anything differently. We want you to account for what was shipped. Also, different syringes and needles that come in the ancillary kits from different manufactures, some of them have more dead air space than others. Depending on the syringes and needles you are using, you could end up using slightly more or slightly less liquid. What's really important is that you are getting the right volume into the recipient and you are using the right size needle. Also, do not pool residuals from multiple vials to form a dose.

Q: Doses for senior housing? Received email from vaccine management unit that the weekly MCVP survey is not being released at this time? How are we supposed to order vaccine without this survey?

A: There is a separate pot of vaccines for this group, and the housing agency is the one who will receive the housing survey. The agency sends this to the state lead, and then the housing state lead will check in with the provider to see if those numbers are correct. If they are, senior housing state lead will send this out to you the following week. Please be patient you might not get exactly what you want when you want it, do not set a date for a clinic or advertise until you hear from us on Monday that you will get doses for the following week. LBOH did not have to complete anything. Housing information is first come first serve right now. We have about 300 forms right now. We are also trying to balance it to not make you do 6 clinics in a week, and trying to spread things out over time. This just started this week, and we are still figuring this

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out. Some problems are that housing agencies do not have the correct PINs.

The clearer you can be with the housing agency the better. State housing agency cannot do anything until the housing agency has submitted information.

Q: Receiving calls from individuals who made appointments as a home health provider but were turned away because they have no work notes validating them.

A: The attestation form is all that's needed. Many of home health providers are self-employed and might not have a work note.

Questions from Q&A answered out loud:

Q: When you make an appointment online for vaccine, are you sent a confirmation email?

A: Confirmation email should be sent. If it's not, please let us know and we can figure out what's going on.

Q: Weather delays, is there a domino effect for delays this week?

A: The manufacture and distributor had a backlog for vaccines for the entire country, but we have been reviewing the shipping information and it does not seem delayed.

Q: What are the best reports to run on MIIS to make sure numbers are linked with what DPH sees?

A: An accountability report is available, providers have access. This will help you see what vaccine has been administered.

Q: Regional sites? Can people exclude non-residents from sites? Local jurisdictional vaccination sites able to turn away non-residents?

A: In MA you are eligible to be vaccinated if you are a person who lives, works, or studies here. We are not requiring people to demonstrate their residency. Right now, through the rest of this week, what we considered yellow pins on the map (jurisdictional boundary) that is okay for right now, but this creates chaos. When people sign up for the appointment and they are turned away, this causes disruption. Starting next week, any other regional sites will be green and have to serve the entire population.

Q: Establishing regional sites?

A: Process being developed for regional sites. This is to meet areas that are not close to vaccination sites. Vaccination sites include hospitals, pharmacies, mass vax sites. In addition to the 750 people a day, 5 days a week capacity, regional sites have to be open/public and will not necessarily get the vaccine to vaccinate 750 people / 5 day a week, but we want to make sure

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you can meet that capacity. You can send proposal or request for a google form at: municipal.vaccine@mass.gov.

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

Jordan Brusco - 3:07 PM

Q: Our office received an inquiry from an Art studio regarding COVID-19 precautions. What sector specific safety standards would be applicable for an art studio that hosts art classes, and other arts and craft based classes/ group activities?-

-Michael - 3:12 PM

A: Sectors not otherwise addressed.

Kelly Pawluczzonek - 3:09 PM

Q: What enforcement can be done regarding school employees that blatantly went to work with COVID symptoms and lie on pre-screening? Looks like in workplace standards school employees are exempt-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:12 PM

A: Kelly, you can issue fines pursuant to the nuisance statute. Send me an email and I can give you more information. Cheryl.

Marykate Franks - 3:02 PM

Q: Has there been any update to the DLS Summary for Barriers and Face Coverings document from August?-

-Michael - 3:13 PM

A: The summary has not changed

Rae Dick - 3:16 PM

Q: Hi, can indoor bounce house and indoor kid climbing facilities be open? -

-Michael - 3:19 PM

A: Bounce house is closed, but climbing is open.

Terence Hayes - 3:11 PM

Q: We have received calls from people younger than 65 with 2 comorbidities are eligible for the vaccine in this phase?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:19 PM

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A: Yes, people with 2 complex medical conditions as listed are eligible, even if they are younger than 65. People need to be at least 16 to receive Pfizer or 18 to receive the Moderna vaccine.

Deloris Joseph - 3:12 PM

Q: We have been told that some MA residents that call 211 get directed to the RI 211 (some of these individuals have a 508 area code-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:20 PM

A: Thank you for flagging this.

Kristin Black - 3:23 PM

Q: Do you anticipate the MA Quarantine Guidelines will be updated to incorporate CDC's update that removes quarantine requirement of close contacts who are within 90 days of 2 week period following the second dose? Same questions for updating MA Travel Order-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:24 PM

A: DPH made a recommendation to the Command Center and it is under review.

Matthew Brennan - 3:11 PM

Q: Where would I find the current re-opening guidelines for school graduations?-

-Anne Stronach - 3:29 PM

A: Here is the link for Graduation. DESE is in the process of updating for the 2021 graduation season. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2020-0521hs-graduation-guidelines.docx>-

-Anne Stronach - 3:35 PM

A: You can send the request to the reopeningk12@mass.gov. We can forward the new guidance as the link is from last year and much has been learned.

Jenny Potee - 3:12 PM

Q: Can students who attend boarding schools in MA go to Stop the Spread sites to be tested for COVID?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:30 PM

A: Students can go there, but the Stop the Spread sites should not be used as the testing program for the school.

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Doug Kress - 3:17 PM

Q: An Urgent Care provider who provided a first dose is now telling people they are not providing the 2nd dose due to the State not providing the supply. Is this accurate? -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:32 PM

A: If an Urgent Care provider has had its account or PIN suspended, they may not receive second doses. However, that should be a rare exception.

LINDA FANTASIA - 3:29 PM

Q: Is there a medical criteria for who is a homebound individual eligible for vaccination? -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:38 PM

A: There will be a screening tool and we will be sharing that information.

Jill Conselino - 3:26 PM

Q: should we hold off on homebound clinics at this time? we had planned for one this week, but it seems that we should hold off right now -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:41 PM

A: More information is being shared next week. You don't have to hold on your plans, but we will have more information coming for those who need it.

joanne belanger - 3:40 PM

Q: is there any update on the State adopting the CDC guidelines for fully immunized people (I&Q)-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:42 PM

A: Not yet. DPH has made a recommendation to the Command Center and it is under review.

Glenn Davis - 3:41 PM

Q: I am assuming the date of February 21st is a typo?? Today is February 23....-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:43 PM

A: yes, deadline is today at 5PM

Jordan Bruso - 3:46 PM

Q: Just to be clear, we are not asking for Low-Income or Affordable Senior housing vaccine through the weekly survey? -

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-Mike Coughlin - 3:47 PM

A: That's right.

Stephanie Fitch - 3:46 PM

Q: The February 17th guidance document says that the provider needs to request the vaccine through the MCVP survey. Please update this. Thanks! -

-Emily Cooper - 3:48 PM

A: you are correct. We are updating this now

Phyllis Drayton - 3:49 PM

Q: How can Glynnis LaRosa be contacted to discuss the lack of email situation?-

-laurie courtney - 3:51 PM

A: PrepMod questions/issues should go to PrepMod.help@mass.gov

Fran Fortino - 3:52 PM

Q: Can you send me the login for the 3/1 webinar on the Excellence grants?-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:53 PM

A: We don't have one yet and will be rescheduling it since the Bidder's conference is after the 1st. We will get it out as soon as we can.

Anita Arnum - 3:55 PM

Q: Can you share that process with us??-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:56 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.