

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

*MDPH/LBOH Webinar 2/9/2021*



## Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Mary Clark, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Mary Dozois and Adam Kinney, Department of Labor Standards
- Anne Gilligan, 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
- John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative

### **Announcements:**

**CTC:** Processing cases on time as they are being sent in. Still referring 2,000 – 2,200 cases from Care Resources Coordinators a week.

**EEA Youth and Adult Sports Guidance update:** Spectator guidance changed to align between indoor and outdoor facilities. If facility has a chaperone or viewing area which allows for at least 6ft distancing between spectators, then spectators are allowed for players under 21 years old. Spectators are limited to 2 adults (parents/guardians) and siblings of a participating player. Spectators must wear face coverings at all times. Indoor facilities limited to 40% overall capacity (including staff, players, spectators, etc.). Removed limit of 25 players per surface. Competitive cheer no longer subject to 10-person cohort limit.

**Q:** Spring soccer still require play modifications?

**A:** The state level requirements of wearing a mask still applies, but locals might have additional regulations.

**Q:** Two adults and two siblings allowed? Or is it two total allowed?

**A:** Two adults. No limit on number of siblings in attendance, just counts towards 40% indoor capacity.

**Q:** Is open skate an organized activity?

**A:** Guidance is that they need to wear masks and social distance, and rink operator should implement best practices like one-way traffic. Not explicitly written out in the guidance though.

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**Q:** Will close contacts of football/cheer/volleyball Covid-19 cases be handled similarly as hockey and basketball where whole teams were being treated as cohorts when there was a case?

**A:** Contact tracing should be done using standard definitions, but DPH has not made this a blanket recommendation for any sport outside of hockey. We are watching basketball very carefully, and based on the current data we might recommend different approaches, but hockey is the only blanket policy.

**Q:** Does this guidance document apply to little league sports as well?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Is there still a 14 ft distance requirement between groups?

**A:** No longer particular distance requirement between groups.

**Q:** 6ft distancing requirement is between households, right?

**A:** Yes.

***Trust the Facts—Get the Vax. Campaign:*** Campaign goals are to promote the safety of the vaccine, ensuring residents of the Commonwealth understand how it works. Establish trust in the science used and the efficacy of the vaccine with populations who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Encourage Massachusetts residents to get vaccinated when it's their turn. Drive users to [www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](https://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine) to learn more. Campaign was developed in ten languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, Cape Verdean, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Chinese (Traditional and simplified), Russian, Arabic, and Albanian.) Additional messages will be developed as more information becomes available for the general population roll-out. Current media channels—Broadcast and cable TV; radio; paid social media—Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Google, YouTube; digital advertising—video pre-roll, streaming TV; print advertising—English and Spanish outlets. [www.mass.gov/GetTheVax](https://www.mass.gov/GetTheVax)  
[www.mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trust-the-facts-get-the-vax)

***Housing webinar review by Jana:*** Partnerships are being developed with agencies, CHCs, local health departments, pharmacies, and physician groups for when this priority group opens. Vaccine allotment for housing is separate from general allotment. When these housing groups are eligible, LBOHs/LHDs can order vaccine on behalf of the senior housing agency. This is always subject to availability, might be managed week-to-week. Elder affairs are also working with the senior housing agencies.

***Vaccine allocations are made with considerations:***

Factoring whether or not there is current inventory on hand at this particular provider. This can count against future allocation decisions. LHDs as a group, has some of the lowest vaccine administration rates. Over 70 sites that have received vaccine, have not reported their clinics in a week or 2. Those vaccines impact the reports to the federal

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government. It's extremely important that all providers are reporting this information within 24 hours of hosting a clinic. If you do not click "submit" on a clinic, it is possible this report does not go through to MHS. If you get an error message, let DPH know. If DPH doesn't have the updated information from you, it appears that you are not using the vaccine. When determining allocations last week, DPH used self-reported inventory numbers by calling LBOH. If we did not talk on the phone, we only used the inventory information available to us, and if inventory wasn't changed we weren't able to give you more.

If you are using paper vaccination forms you need to coordinate with the vaccine management unit to make sure your inventory is correct. An advantage of using PrepMod is that it does this automatically when you submit your clinic information.

### **Questions from Q&A answered out loud:**

**Q:** Any info or guidance around prom?

**A:** No updated guidance on this. Will take it back.

**Q:** DESE--any updates to transportation guidance?

**A:** Expecting to release updated transportation guidance within the next week.

**Q:** Eastfield Mall, why is this the only mass vax site in W. Mass? People out in the cold yesterday.

**A:** Yes, not okay. We sent someone out there today. National Guard was also sent out to provide support. Although Eastfield Mall is the newest site, it is not the only one. There are other vaccination sites in addition to the Eastfield mall.

**Q:** Municipal vax sites, lots of people are interested, lots of pressure to provide local clinics.

**A:** What we are finding is that the larger vaccination sites are the most effective and efficient at vaccinating. As a state, our public health interest is to vaccinate people as quickly as possible. Also trying to do this with limited vaccine each week. Each week there are about 4 times the number of requests for vaccine than what's actually available. If you are not near a mass vax site and can regionalize with your local partners to distribute vaccine, we can accept proposals, send them to DPH.

**Q:** People are not returning for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses, no idea why, do they miss their place in line? Any suggestions on herd immunity when people are half vaccinated?

**A:** Maybe they had an appointment elsewhere, or maybe they couldn't make time for it. About the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, now they're saying you can come back within 6 weeks for the first dose and won't have an issue. Maybe this is less of a concern. No real data to answer this question right now.

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Unsure what it means when large numbers of people only have a single dose.  
Also, those people do not miss their place in line.

MAHB: Still looking for clarification about COA helping senior citizens.

### **Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:**

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Ben Margro - 3:16 PM

**Q:** So no EEA modifications for football? As MIIA from what we have been told has only modified huddles, contact play has not been modified. We were hoping for at least baseline quarantine recommendations since there is no modification to direct contact.-

-Gerben Scherpbier - 3:20 PM

**A:** I haven't seen the latest modifications for football from MIAA, so I can't speak to that. EEA requires that all players must wear a face covering at all times.

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Sharon McCarthy - 3:29 PM

**Q:** Which entity fills out the request - the pharmacy partner or the BoH - we do not have a housing agency in Harvard, MA?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:40 PM

**A:** The housing facility will need to fill out the housing survey to show that they are partnered with someone. Vaccine is ordered by the vaccinator.

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Dianne Romwo - 3:39 PM

**Q:** Question on nordic races-since it is in the outdoors I imagine parents and siblings can attend the race if they spread out around the course?-

-Gerben Scherpbier - 3:41 PM

**A:** Hi Dianne, that's correct. If it's an organized race or practice, any competitor under the age of 21 can have up to 2 adults and all of their siblings so long as they wear their face coverings and socially distance from other spectators along the course.-

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Teri Brand - 3:31 PM

**Q:** Will DESE be preparing and disseminating a chart/grid, similar to the one for HCWs that has been distributed, to inform and guide return to work decision making if a school employee experiences post COVID vaccination side effects/symptoms?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:56 PM

**A:** Teri, I will take this question back to the DESE team.

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misty trombly - 3:31 PM

**Q:** WILL DESE HAVE GUIDANCE FOR POST VACCINE SYMTOMS FOR STAFF RELATED TO NEED TO TEST OR NOT?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:57 PM

**A:** Misty, I will take this question back to the DESE team.