

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 3/30/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Dawn Fukuda, Glynnis LaRosa, Laurie A. Courtney, 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
- Dr. John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
 - Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
 - Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
 - Kristina Crandall, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Disaster Recovery Unit

Announcements:

Vaccine updates—"Last Mile" Vaccination Program: Last Mile is the vendor to provide mobile vaccination support, and this resource is prioritized for the 20 municipalities and priority populations such as BIPOC, non-English speaking, individuals with access and functional needs, amongst other vulnerable populations. An email was sent out recently (to the Fire Chiefs) but provided misleading information about the availability of this resource. It is not available for everyone, but we are working on collaborating with additional entities to provide these services widespread. Also, looking at municipalities to transfer vaccine supply to mobile clinics because no additional vaccine available from DPH.

Vaccine updates—Federal vaccine allocations: Federal strategy currently prioritizes vaccine to retail pharmacy chains and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Over the past few weeks the Federal government has announced significant investment in FQHCs—both in terms of capacity building and vaccines. There are 27 FQHCs in MA, and they are able to order more than 7k doses / week. Many are not currently ordering their full allotment, some of them haven't ordered them at all. Please reach out to your local FQHCs to see if there are opportunities to strengthen partnerships and/or support that you can provide to increase the amount of vaccine they are ordering directly from the Federal government. This is one way that you can help increase the vaccine coming into your community.

Biden Administration has made a commitment to increase vaccine to meet an objective of a vaccine site within 5 miles of 90% of all Americans by April 19th. Part of the "90/90" initiative. The Administration will increase the current number of pharmacies giving out vaccines from 17k to nearly 40k within the next three weeks. In MA, the number of CVS pharmacies and additional retail pharmacy chains will continue to increase. Retail pharmacy

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partnership with Federal government does not go through Massachusetts at

all. Doses for retail pharmacies come in addition to the allocation that comes to the state.

Administration is also adding 12 more federally-run mass vaccination sites. At sites currently stood up, over 60% of the shots going to minority communities. This includes the FEMA effort at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

The state's allocation is currently flat, meaning we are not seeing an increase in doses allocated to the state at this time. If/when the federal government increases the state's allocation, we will allocate vaccine, including to the regional collaboratives that have been approved but have not yet commenced operations due to lack of supply.

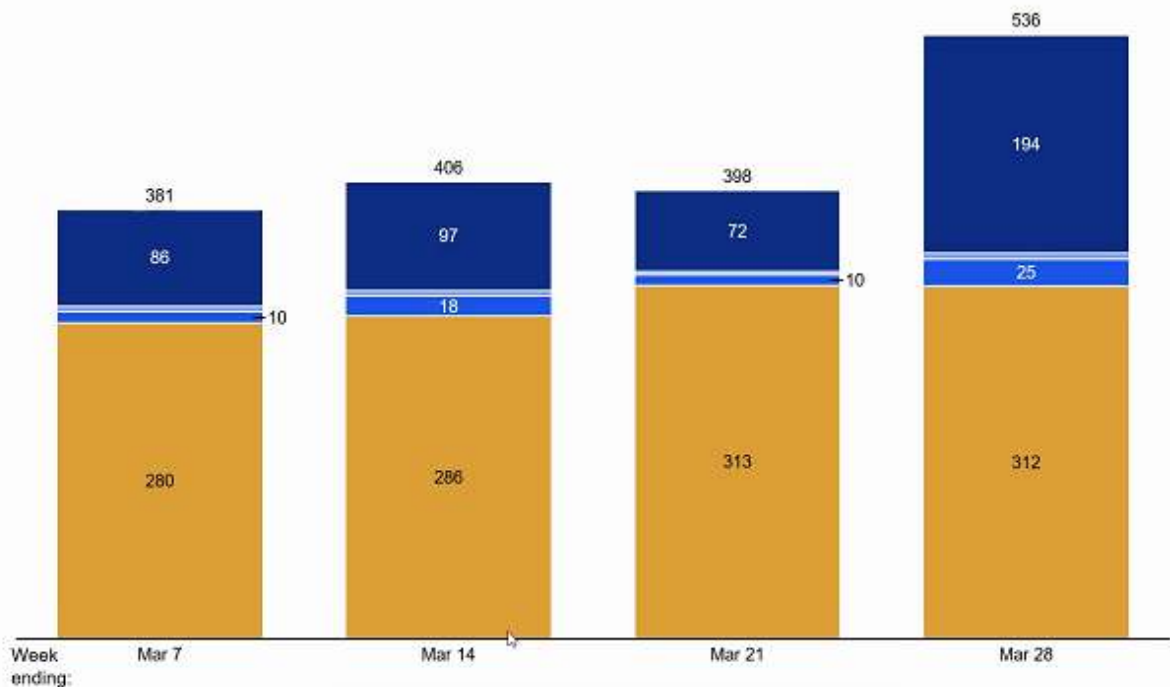
Total doses shipped by channel

Viewing Ron O'Connor's...

Thousands of doses in week ending on Sunday

DRAFT - FOR DISCUSSION

- 7 Day Average Shipped - CVS and Walgreens (Tiberius)
- 7 Day Average Shipped - Other Pharmacies/LTC Programs (Tiberius)
- 7 Day Average Shipped - HRSA FQHC (Tiberius)
- 7 Day Average Shipped - All Others (MHS)



Only items in gold are what comes through Massachusetts. Smaller percentage coming into Massachusetts from the total. Huge bump in dark blue on March 28th refers to allotment to CVS and Walgreens from Federal government.

Q: How does the state supply differentiate from the federal supply?

A: Forecasted view, usually around 3 weeks—we are not seeing an increase of doses allocated for the state at this time.

Homebound vaccinations: As of March 30th, 4,571 total incoming calls to MassOptions, and 954 outbound calls. 1,696 residents determined eligible over last 5 days. Average speed to answer

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has been less than 3 min. ~20% of callers live in a municipality running their own homebound program and referred to their LBOH. ~80% live in a municipality using the State Homebound Program. Of the 80%, ~2/3 are screened as eligible for homebound vaccination and the remaining are referred to 2-1-1 for other questions etc. Data on number of incoming calls to LBOH not available to DPH right now.

After being confirmed eligible, individuals are called back within ~3 days to schedule appointment. 230 appointments scheduled so far, ~1,500 individuals yet to be scheduled. 62% call success rate; 20% of identified eligible residents scheduled for appointments (will ramp up). CCA vaccinated 25 individuals on Friday and 25 more on Monday.

Running totals slides: These are people that have called us so far, not the percentage of eligible persons by county yet.

Homebound Vaccination Metrics, as of March 30 (9:00am)

MassOptions (central intake phone number)						5-Day Total
	29-Mar	26-Mar	25-Mar	24-Mar	23-Mar	
Inbound Calls Received	1820	1433	985	281	52	4571
Average Wait Time	0:02:10	0:02:53	0:01:20	0:00:13	0:00:16	0:02:04
Average Call Time	0:11:37	0:12:55	0:12:10	0:14:45	0:13:29	0:12:21
Callers referred to LBOH	440	336	234	59	3	1072
Eligible Callers for CCA	682	504	355	142	13	1,696

CCA						5-Day Total
	29-Mar	26-Mar	25-Mar	24-Mar	23-Mar	
Appointments Scheduled	36	133	3	43	15	230
Individuals to be scheduled	1449	767	363	161	71	1449
# Homebound Vaccinated	25	24	0	0	0	49
Additional Vaccinations**	0	1	0	0	0	1

*Includes residents handed to CCA on same day

**Additional vaccinations are other eligible residents in the household

***Individuals to be scheduled includes individuals where a call has been attempted but resident not reached

Eligible Residents By County		
Bristol	110	11%
Barnstable	6	1%
Berkshire	63	6%
Dukes	1	0%
Essex	151	14%
Franklin	0	0%
Hampden	75	7%
Hampshire	18	2%
Middlesex	163	16%
Nantucket	0	0%
Norfolk	116	11%
Plymouth	92	9%
Suffolk	96	9%
Worcester	141	13%
Total	1047	100%

Average Age	Median Age
75	76

*As of Monday, March 29th 9:00am

For those wanting to do option 1 (LBOH hosting vaccination clinics), follow up survey was released last week. DPH following up on requests and trying to find the most efficient and useful allocation plan. Only allocation for people who have actually been screened because there is so much movement between estimates and final numbers. Working on allocating J&J, hoping to be delivered early next week so you can get your programs started. For communities who chose to use the state program (option 2), please refer individuals to 1-833-983-0485. Do not use this number for screening. Screening should be done locally.

Q: How are the doses allocated to the community? In lots of 100?

A: Really important to fill out the survey for communities who chose Option 1. J&J ships vaccine from manufacturer in 100 doses, 5 vials of 20 doses each. If a community only has a

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number of 10 people to vaccinate, we are looking for ways to share remaining doses. If you do have leftover doses, please work with the Council on Aging or ASAPs in your community to identify other people who might not qualify as homebound, but are elderly/might have trouble traveling to a vaccination site. Also, people with a history of allergies to vaccines need special consideration with the homebound program.

Q: Am I enrolled in the homebound program?

A: If you did not fill out the survey about having to sign up for either option 1 or 2, DPH chose option 2 for you to ensure coverage.

CMG Associates: Services offered include individual support, training (online webinars), and leadership coaching. 23 webinars hosted so far, about 300 people attended. DPH has extended their contract through the end of June. More programs on the way. In April, 5 new programs, Managing Yourself Through Changing Times (Weds. April 14th, 10am-11am); Navigating Difficult Interactions (Thurs. April 15th, 10am-11am); Time Management for Healthy Work-life Balance (Thurs. April 22nd, 10am-1pm); Active Listening (Mon. April 26th, 1pm-2pm); Saying “no”, Staying Confident or How to Say “no” and be a Hero (Weds. April 28th, 10am-11am). Contact Bruce Cedar to register for the webinars: bcedar@cmgassociates.com

Other announcements: New CDC documents available of the interim clinical considerations and COVID-19 vaccine administration errors and deviations. Quick reference guides for healthcare professionals with key metrics.

Questions from Q&A answered out loud:

Q: Any guidance for prom and commencement?

A: [Graduation/commencement guidance has been posted.](#) Working to finish prom guidance to release this week.

Q: Guidance on farmer’s markets?

A: Department of Agricultural Resources, who released farmer’s market guidance last year, is working on a revision now and this will be released shortly.

Q: Guidance for lawn games?

A: Follow arcade and recreation standards. Also, social distance and wear a mask.

Q: Any information about number of teachers/educators vaccinated so far? How did they go?

A: Will look back on this. We heard anecdotally that it went well.

Q: Local rate of transmission within households increased, did variants have a role in this?

A: We have heard of this as an observation from a few LBOHs. Possible it could be from a variant of concern. B.1.1.7 is widespread, whereas P.1 is more focal (Essex, Middlesex, and Barnstable counties). Increase in cases we are seeing likely associated with increase in variants. Unlikely to be just due to the variants. We are reopening, and people are really tired of wearing

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masks and social distancing. Looking at a confluence of events that might contribute to this uptick in cases.

Q: Is Massachusetts still only able to sequence about 1% of the tests?

A: We used to be 0.5%, not great but it's doubled. This is something the country has struggled with nationally, enrolling more national laboratories to do more sequencing. Data right now not enough to inform policy.

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

Jill Conselino - 3:03 PM

Q: I've been asked about updating our self-certification form to reflect vaccination status. Should this be adjusted?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:06 PM

A: Could you please elaborate? I'm not sure what form you are referencing. -

-Katie Tenaglia-O'Neill - 2:59 PM

Q: Has DESE released the event guidance for proms and graduation?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:11 PM

A: Katie, we are working to have the prom guidance out this week. The graduation guidance is already posted here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/commencement-guidance/download->

-Cathleen Liberty - 3:02 PM

Q: The guidance for spectator capacity for outdoor football game within the stadium is vague. Please advise. Thank you-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:14 PM

A: https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-sector-specific-safety-rules-for-large-capacity-venues-permitted-to-open-to-the-public-in-phase-iv-of-the-commonwealths-re-opening-plan/download?_ga=2.262090573.1962051999.1616335041-48409956.1580311706-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:14 PM

A: capacity limits are at the bottom of page 1 in the document at this link.-

-Anita Arnum - 3:14 PM

Q: Who are these FQHC's??-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:17 PM

A: There is a list of all FQHCs in MA at https://npidb.org/organizations/ambulatory_health_care/federally-qualified-health-center-fqhc_261qf0400x/ma/-

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-Douglas Huber - 3:17 PM

Q: How do we identify where FQHCs are located to find one near us?-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:25 PM

A: You can look at https://npidb.org/organizations/ambulatory_health_care/federally-qualified-health-center-fqhc_261qf0400x/ma/ and <https://carelistings.com/find/federally-qualified-health-centers/massachusetts> and <https://massleague.org/findahealthcenter/index.php->

-Richard Rossi - 3:09 PM

Q: Hi, in phase 4 Step 1, is BINGO allowed under the indoor events sector Specific Guidelines? Also, private clubs, are they allowed to have card games no more than 6 per table and wearing masks?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:26 PM

A: Bingo is allowed as an event with all relevant requirements. -

-bonnie dufresne - 3:10 PM

Q: Is on site food consumption allowed at Farmer's Markets? I only see no sampling in the guidance.-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:27 PM

A: Farmer's Market guidance is pending.-

-Kelli Calo - 3:17 PM

Q: If a venue rents their outdoor space for a private gathering of 30 people, are they able to play lawn games during the event?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:27 PM

A: Follow the events standard-

-Kelli Calo - 3:18 PM

Q: If there is a large outbreak in the schools but no longer a remote learning option, will schools be able to close for two weeks?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:28 PM

A: Kelli, the district needs to consult with DESE before closing school. This information is at the top of page 7 of the guidance at this link: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/in-person-learning-guide.docx->

-Andy Cambi - 3:18 PM

Q: Under youth and amateur sports, is baseball still moderate risk? with only up to level 3 play and no tournament play allowed? -

-Mike Coughlin - 3:34 PM

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A: Baseball is still moderate risk, no tournaments allowed.-

-Anita Arnum - 3:37 PM

Q: What is Anna's contact to reach out if we haven't heard from her yet??-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:39 PM

A: anna.dunbar-hester@mass.gov

-Kelli Calo - 3:36 PM

Q: Mike, I couldn't find anything about lawn games in the event standards- are those allowed?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:41 PM

A: They should follow the Arcades and Other Indoor and Outdoor Game and Recreation-

-Wes Chin - 3:39 PM

Q: The high school PTO is planning a back to school breakfast on the football field for the senior class of 250 students. The PTO hopes to hire a food truck to cater this event. Would outdoor event capacity limits apply to this breakfast?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:42 PM

A: Yes-

-Ellen DuPont - 3:31 PM

Q: state home bound telephone number, that the BOH can call when they have a patient for the vaccine . -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:44 PM

A: If you are not doing local vaccine, you can refer residents to 833-983-0485-

-misty trombly - 3:46 PM

Q: School Outdoor event follow up to Question asked above: The max is 150 people for outdoor events correct? Is this different if held on school grounds as a school event?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:49 PM

A: It isn't a school sponsored event if it is the PTO-