

Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- · Glynnis LaRosa and Laurie A. Courtney, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn and Mary Clark, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- · Yves Singletary, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, DPH
- Michael Flanagan and Adam Kinney, Department of Labor Standards
- · Helene Bettencourt and Anne Gilligan, 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

Questions from Q&A answered out loud:

Brief updates: <u>ABCC Advisory on Musical Performances at Licensed Establishments</u> (sent before webinar). Singing is not permissible indoors. Over the weekend, the screening form did come in as well as the standing orders for J&J. Will send information after the call.

Stop the Spread program: Extended through June 30, 2021. Contracts for these are renewed every 3 months, was supposed to expire end of March.

<u>MA Travel Order</u> Revision re: People Completely Vaccinated: Individuals who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer or single dose of J&J vaccine more than 14 days ago, and do not have symptoms, do not need to obtain a negative test prior to traveling and do not need to quarantine upon arrival to MA. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 also do not need to quarantine—no specifics on variants. Vaccinated individuals arriving in MA must have documentation of their vaccination(s), including the date(s) of administration, available if asked. This exception does not include vaccinated individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, who must follow all testing and quarantine guidance outlined in the travel rules.

Q: Travel order always exempted children under the age of 10. Has this changed? **A**: Nope.

DESE In-person learning guidance: In our guidance we recommended that students wear masks, and now in new guidance we are saying they *must* wear masks. <u>Elementary school</u>



<u>phase, grades K-5</u>: Hybrid and remote learning models will no longer count towards meeting the required student learning time hours as of Monday, April 5th, 2021. Learning model for elementary school grade levels to full-time, in-person instruction five days per week effective Monday, April 5th, 2021. <u>Middle school phase, grades 6-8</u>: Hybrid and remote learning models will no longer count towards meeting the required student learning time hours as of Wednesday, April 28th, 2021. Learning model for middle school grade levels to full-time, in-person instruction five days per week effective Monday, April 28th, 2021. <u>High</u> <u>school phase, grades 9-12</u>: DESE will announce the details and timing of the high school phase of the plan in April. Districts will be provided with at least two weeks in advance of the date for high school students to return to full-time, in-person instruction, but should start making such plans now.

Q: Guidance for proms?

A: Working on updating this. We recommend looking at guidance we put out last year to start your planning. You could also look at <u>guidance for special events</u>, that are not prom related, but a lot of this is still applicable.

Q: Does a waiver for a group of students with special reasons to remain at home exist? Any science to why 3ft distancing?

A: Districts are required to survey parents. Part of this is to understand which parents are going to choose to have their students learn remotely. This is still an option until the end of the year. Students who are in a hybrid model can also choose to go remote as well. If you go through the footnotes of the guidance there are references to the 3ft guidance.

Q: Flag football guidance for middle schools?

A: The guidance regarding sports is not DESE guidance, comes from EEA. There is a link on the website that has joint guidance from MIAA.

20 Communities Equity Outreach Initiative: Combining CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) as

well as case rates of COVID-19 in communities, and giving each equal (50%) weight, helped identify potential "high need" communities in MA. Analysis done in Fall 2020 by McKinsey in collaboration with external Vaccine Advisory Group. Method uses county level SVI and city-level case rates. List prioritizes 40% of all communities in the Commonwealth (picture on next page). List includes cities where case rates may be driven by congregate care sites, which have been prioritized within the phases of the vaccine deployment.





Three goals of the initiative:

- 1) Increase trust in the vaccine's safety and efficacy, acknowledging that in many communities of color, mistrust and hesitancy can stem from a history of medical mistreatment.
- 2) Identify and reduce barriers in communities for accessing the vaccine for those who are eligible and ready to receive the vaccine.
- 3) Facilitate strategic allocation to priority populations, through existing sites as well as leveraging mobile vax options.

<u>DPH Liaison</u>: As part of the outreach, DPH Community Liaison will work to leverage and coordinate state resources and customize a menu of options to be offered to each community, which may include:

-Identifying gaps and mapping available resources to reduce barriers to vaccination.

-Coordinating and supporting key stakeholders to maximize and align efforts, while synchronizing outreach, working closely with LBOH, local community and faith based organizations (FBOs), CHCs, and CHWs who can support grassroots outreach to priority populations.

-Developing population specific outreach activities and engagement strategies to help increase vaccine confidence.

-Deploying DPH vaccine ambassadors to provide support for town-halls and other community forums to share information and materials, including a <u>DPH forum guide and toolkit</u>.



-Disseminating culturally appropriate translation of campaign materials, including the "Trust the Facts, Get the Vax" campaign and vaccine FAQs in multiple languages.

-Hiring local residents to provide "boots on the ground" for neighborhood and local businesses outreach, which may include a door-knocking campaign to provide information and answer questions about vaccine efficacy and safety.

Q: Can the materials being developed be used in communities not listed in the 20 prioritized? Materials could be used to target disproportionately affected neighborhoods.

A: Resources we are developing can definitely be shared within the 20 communities and beyond. A lot of the communication materials are already on the website.

<u>Vaccine clinics in partnership with senior affordable housing</u>: All residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable housing are a priority population and are eligible for vaccines. Includes both public housing operated by Local Housing Authorities and age-restricted rental housing owned by private landlords who receive state/federal funding to ensure housing was affordable to low-income older adults. Not all senior housing meets the definition of senior affordable housing used for the vaccine rollout.

<u>Step 1</u>: Housing Agency (HA) finds a vaccine provider (VP) and completes the Planning Survey. HA is doing outreach now to different VPs. Once a VP has been identified, the HA must complete the <u>online planning survey</u>. One survey should be completed for each planned clinic. Survey includes contact information for both the HA and VP as well as the VP PIN, and estimated number of doses to be needed, first and second.

<u>Step 2</u>: Plan and prepare for the clinic. The VP and HA should discuss how to accommodate residents who may be unable or unwilling to visit the common area for the clinic (including homebound individuals). Also need to discuss how to budget time to visit apartments for vaccination and the 15 min observation period. Protocols should be developed for how to manage residents/staff who may be anxious about getting the vaccine.

<u>Step 3</u>: You as the VP do not need to fill out the MCVP survey. State reviews the Housing Planning Survey responses and puts them in a queue for vaccine. Due to limited vaccine, not every HA will be able to receive vaccine allocation each week. Moderna will be used for this group. Requests must be made in increments of 100, and will be rounded to minimize waste (e.g. request for 115 doses will be rounded down to 100). The VP must have met the 65%/85% threshold for distribution of previously allocated vaccines in order to get additional vaccine allocated for senior affordable housing. Allocation timeline and process:

Monday—state contacts those VPs identified in the Housing Planning Survey who have been prioritized for that week's upcoming order. VP must complete a Google Form by noon on Tuesday confirming the amount of vaccine needed. VP should consult with the HA when completing this Google Form. VP should check in with HA "What do you think the take-up rate is gong to be?"



Friday—When the order is put in, the VP will receive an automatic email from DPH. You have been approved for vaccine, but it doesn't differentiate about senior housing. You will receive a second email that says part of that vaccine allotment will be going to senior housing.

Following Monday-Wednesday—doses arrive at VP.

Within 10 days following receipt of the vaccine—clinics should have been held in the senior affordable housing properties.

As not every HA is allocated vaccine each week, no clinics or appointments should be finalized or advertised until the VP received the DPH order confirmation.

<u>Step 4</u>: Once DPH has approved vaccine request, HA and VP should finalize date and time of the clinic (make sure to build in time for lunch/breaks for volunteers and staff); confirm staff and volunteers; review and finalize logistics (e.g. what supplies will BP bring related to PPE, thermometers, etc); notify residents and schedule appointments (remind residents to bring ID and glasses, wear loose clothing/short sleeves); organize and obtain materials needed for the clinic. The VP and HA must develop a plan for any opened vials and any unsured vaccine that may be available after the clinic. Try to use them for residents in other senior affordable housing buildings who are 65 years or older, have two or more comorbidities, or meet other eligibility criteria. Try to use them in another senior housing clinic if one is scheduled within 10 days of receiving the vaccine. If no clinic is scheduled within that time frame, plan to use the extra doses to vaccinate other individuals who meet the current eligibility criteria as set by the state. Work with the local COA and Elder Service Agencies to identify older adults who have not yet been able to schedule a vaccination appointment.

Step 5: Receive 2nd doses and organize the 2nd clinic. At the first clinic, each person vaccinated should receive an appointment for a second dose (either 21 or 28 days, depending on the vaccine). Appointments can be made for second doses even if the VP does not have those doses available at the time. VPs do not need to and should not save first doses in "reserve" to use for second doses. Second doses for senior affordable housing will be sent automatically—VPs are required to complete the weekly Google Form to confirm their second dose needs. Vaccine requests for second doses are prioritized each week as long as VPs are meeting the 65%/85% threshold.

For help, contact <u>seniorhousingvaccine@mass.gov</u>. Support includes: helping HA find VPs. Answer questions about vaccine allocation process. Assist in finding local volunteers to help at clinics. Troubleshoot issues that arise. MCVP providers who have never received/requested vaccine before should contact <u>seniorhousingvaccine@mass.gov</u> to get assistance.

Q: How are vaccines being administered during HA clinics being documented? Some locations have PrepMod, and some don't.A: MIIS.



Q: Ordering second doses, do VPs order through HA?

A: VPs shouldn't do anything. You are scheduled for 4 weeks later. Senior Housing will reach out when it gets closer to that time to confirm if those doses are still correct.

Q: I haven't received the survey but we have been doing senior housing.
A: If you've done a senior housing clinic, and did not receive doses through the process laid out today, email <u>seniorhousingvaccine@mass.gov</u> ASAP. Some people started doing senior housing before this program started, so we might not be able to see or know that those vaccines have been done.

Regional collaborations: Subject to vaccine availability. There is obviously a concern about planning, you probably heard that small amount of vaccine can be utilized by the regional collab at their discretion, up to 25%, to use it locally in their regional area (i.e. seniors). 75% still has to go to the public. This is new as of Friday.

Educator vaccines/child care workers: Educators=K-12 school staff (teachers, any other staff). Higher education is part of Phase 3. Licensed child care workers and staff that work there (not nannies, babysitters, school volunteers) are also eligible. Vaccinating educators is a federal directive, approximately 400k individuals work in education or childcare. Massachusetts did not receive any more vaccine to support this directive. No increase in allocation for providers, and no new providers added to do this work. CVS has been identified as a participating pharmacy provide by the federal government, and they will be setting aside vaccine for educators. This does not go through DPH at all. At least a month for eligible residents to get the first dose of the vaccine. Moving the vaccine as quickly as we can. Educators are urged to book appointments through mass vax finder when they become eligible. All of the providers receiving vaccine allocation from the state are listed as open. Must serve all eligible residents at all times.

Q: Will there be any specific days set aside for educators?

A: More information to be released tomorrow about the individual days.

Q: Will there be new opportunities for municipal operations to support this targeted effort?

A: Generally, no.

Homebound: Distributed the guidance document to support this work to primary contacts of health departments on Saturday. In the resource doc there is a link to the Google survey. This is a way to indicate to us whether or not your health department or municipality wants to do homebound vaccine in-house or if you want to work with the state vendor. We do need to have a response back by March 12th. We are trying to use J&J for this work. We understand that this



will be challenging for everyone. This also means that the state vendor won't start vaccinating until J&J comes into Massachusetts, expected for April.

Q: Any particular allocation set aside for homebound?A: No.

Questions answered aloud from the Q&A:

Q: What are the steps for individuals who have been vaccinated, or recovered from COVID, if they've been exposed?

A: Individuals who had COVID-19 in the last 90 days from day of first positive test, and individuals who received 2 doses of Moderna or Pfizer or single dose of J&J, are not required to quarantine following exposure.

Questions from the Q&A not answered aloud:

-Gerald Clarke - 2:44 PM

Q: Given the determination that for the small number of identifiable " in-home" vaccination candidates exist in the municipality; what is the procedure for notifying DPH that the municipality is turning it over to DPJF?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:01 PM

A: The survey at this link is for telling us how your community wants to address the homebound population:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_6pTHKAGYIFDRapfSQqmm8ISUmLEeldwV7OjW 0iH_xYyYYw/viewform-

Christopher Webb - 2:58 PM Q: Can supermarkets go to 50% occupancy ?--Mike Coughlin - 3:03 PM A: yes

Felix Zemel - 3:06 PM

Q: How do we differentiate between singing and Karaoke indoors?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:06 PM

A: Karoke is singing and therefore not allowed

Douglas Telling - 3:09 PM

Q: can we get an update on how prevalent the variants are in the state?-



-Mike Coughlin - 3:12 PM **A**: Dr. Brown is not available for this afternoon's call.

Noelle Freeman - 3:11 PM

Q: The answer to Question 1 of the Potential travel scenarios has not been updated and contradicts the new vaccine info so it may cause confusion.-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:13 PM

A: Yes, thank you. We will notify the web site staff.

MaryAnn OConnor - 3:09 PM

Q: singing in churches with musical performances allowed? mask requirements for church musical performers? where can i find guidelines? thanks-

-Adam Kinney - 3:18 PM

A: Singing in churches is allowed during worship services and would follow the Places of Worship standards

Roland Lankah - 3:15 PM

Q: what is the guidance for flag football games for middle school?-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:20 PM

A: https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2020-0818modified-sports-

seasons.docx-

Diane Tiernan - 3:19 PM

Q: does the new travel order also apply to international travel returning to MA?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:22 PM

A: Hi Diane - It does. There may be federal requirements around traveling to and from the US, but the MA travel order applies to traveling in MA. People would need to comply with both.

MaryAnn OConnor - 3:20 PM

Q: nothing about singing that I could find about singing in Houses of Worship guidelines-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:22 PM

A: Its not in writing but we have said it is allowed. -

-Adam Kinney - 3:24 PM



A: During a worship service, singing is allowed. They have to follow the mask standards that are in place for worship services found in the Places of Worship Standards.

-Mary Dozois - 3:31 PM

A: Correct. The Place of Worship standard does not have a bullet that says indoor singing is prohibited. this is on purpose so that worship services are not restricted. Indoor singing is not allowed in any other type of setting.

Julia Pingitore - 3:15 PM

Q: We are getting a lot of questions about spring sports - when should we expect updated spring sports guidance to be available?-

-Mary Dozois - 3:28 PM

A: Spring sports are covered by the EEA Youth and Amateur Sports standard dated 3/1/21.

Rachel Lee - 3:14 PM

Q: Are there any statewide plans for increased summer school programing for elementary school students?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:28 PM

A: Hello Rachel, summer school programming is under discussion. I don't have information today on statewide plans.

Barry Potvin - 3:28 PM

Q: In restaurants, do performers with instruments need to be 10 feet or 25 feet from customers if indoors?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:30 PM

A: it is 25 feet between performers and the customers. The 10 feet is between band members.

Kathy Cunningham - 3:18 PM

Q: Will there by an update for guidelines for Field Trips for school?-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:34 PM

A: Guidance which includes field trip was updated on Jan 11

https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/return-to-school/supplement/2020-0831student-groupsschool-events.docx-



Caroline Kinsella - 3:33 PM

Q: I have not received a vaccine survey last week or this week yet, is it coming under a different email? or how can I put the order in? I need 100 second doses for next week.-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:35 PM

A: The second dose survey was sent out a couple of weeks ago and another one again yesterday. The MCVP survey is no longer being sent out each week. -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:35 PM

A: Please send an email to Mary Clark at Mary.Clark2@mass.gov

Larry Ramdin - 3:35 PM

Q: The entire process of vaccinating with the Housing Authority is working well, the process is easy and we are happy to partner with our Housing Authority to vaccinate their elder population-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:36 PM A: Wonderful!-

Noelle Freeman - 3:19 PM

Q: Has the quarantine question been answered for vaccinated people who are close contacts to positive cases? Or just for travel?-

-laurie courtney - 3:36 PM

A: Hi Noelle. See the Info and Guidance for Quarantine, on mass.gov. It was updated 3/8 and states persons who completed a full vavine series at least 14 days ago, but less than 90 days ago, are not required to quarantine following an exposure.

Maribeth Ting - 3:31 PM

Q: For schools, is it important for fully vaccinated individuals to participate in pool testing? if so should they do say after their first 90 days after vaccine completion-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:37 PM

A: This question would be best answered at our testing in

box<K12COVID19testing@mass.gov>

Doreen Crowe - 3:31 PM

Q: For DESE - if barriers are used during lunch, can students be seated closer than 6 feet apart & is it okay for them to not all face the same direction with barriers?-



-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:39 PM

A: Our guidance calls for 6 feet of distancing. Barriers does not eliminate the distancing in the lunch room.

vivian zeng - 3:35 PM
Q: Where can I find guidance on yard sales/ estate sales?-Adam Kinney - 3:40 PM
A: for a neighborhood tag sale/large scale sale, it would be retail. -Adam Kinney - 3:40 PM
A: An estate sale would be "sectors not otherwise addressed"-Adam Kinney - 3:42 PM
A: I apologize, scratch that, both would be retail

Caroline Kinsella - 3:39 PM

Q: It is not senior housing vaccine that I need, I need 100 doses for second doses for homebound and two more clinics. Is there an email that I can send this request to?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:40 PM

A: We've noted you need 100 Moderna for next week. If you have needs beyond next week send to me michael.j.coughlin@mass.gov

Susan Lumenello - 3:36 PM

Q: How can we order second doses if we are not sent the weekly survey?-

-emily cooper - 3:41 PM

A: If you need second doses for senior affordable housing and you previously ordered first doses thru MCVP, please email Seniorhousingvaccine@mass.gov about your needs

Lorri McCool - 3:41 PM

Q: Any new guidance on town meeting protocol? -

-Mike Coughlin - 3:42 PM

A: I can email it you after the webinar.



Frank Giacalone - 3:32 PM

Q: We had our 1st dose clinic yesterday 3/8/21 for the housing authority. Who and how do we order the 2nd doses for the 2nd clinic. Housing authority or LBOH? Do we use the survey link??-

-emily cooper - 3:42 PM

A: If you received doses thru the senior housing process then you will automatically be contacted in 4 weeks to confirm your need for 2nd doses

Jill Conselino - 3:33 PM

Q: how do we document vaccines that are administered during the housing agency clinics? do we use PrepMod if we are set up for this-

-emily cooper - 3:43 PM A: Please put into MIIS

Marykate Franks - 3:42 PM Q: Is any guidance on stadiums and arenas (for after 3/22) forthcoming? --Adam Kinney - 3:43 PM

A: It is currently being put together

Darlene Coyle - 3:39 PM

Q: Can you clarify the reporting of housing authority vaccines to MIIS please-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:44 PM

A: HHS posted the teacher vaccination FAQ which speaks to who qualify. Here's the link: <u>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-covid-19-vaccinations-for-k-12-and-childcare-workers-</u>

Jen Murphy - 3:39 PM

Q: Do school volunteers qualify as "education worker" to receive vax as of 3/11?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:45 PM

A: HHS posted the teacher vaccination FAQ which speaks to who qualify. Here's the link: <u>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-covid-19-vaccinations-for-k-12-and-childcare-workers-</u>

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:45 PM



A: HHS posted the teacher vaccination FAQ which speaks to who qualify. Here's the link: <u>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-covid-</u> <u>19-vaccinations-for-k-12-and-childcare-workers-</u>

Larry Ramdin - 3:42 PM Q: IS there any information on the proposed change to phase 4 on March 22nd--Mary Dozois - 3:46 PM

A: Order 65 has an updated table in Schedule A that lists the Phase IV-Step 1 activities that are anticipated on 3/22/21.

Melissa Langille-Badger - 3:41 PM

Q: Has the final DESE guidance document been released? -

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:47 PM

A: Melissa, it was emailed to superintendents this afternoon and is posted here: <u>https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html-</u>

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:48 PM

A: Yes it has. <u>https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0309in-person-</u> learning-guide.docx-

Gail Johnson - 3:46 PM

Q: If everyone in an office has been fully vaccinated, do we still need to wear a mask in the office?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:47 PM A: At this time, yes-

Wendy Diotalevi - 3:41 PM

Q: It seems like DESE has allowed for indoor singing. Can music Departments have students sing indoors including theater?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:49 PM

A: Wendy, information on indoor singing in schools is posted here:

https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/return-to-school/supplement/additional-safety-guide.docx-



Doreen Crowe - 3:44 PM

Q: Another question for DESE - if barriers are used in the classroom, can the students be facing any direction or do they still have to all face the same direction?-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:51 PM

A: DESE guidance recommends that students face in the same direction. It does not speak to barriers.

chris knuth - 3:37 PM

Q: do we need to keep Pfizer vaccine at ultra low temperatures still? CDC has lowered the holding temp-

-laurie courtney - 3:53 PM

A: Chris - The FDA issued an amendment to the Pfizer EUA on 2/26. This includes an added alternative for frozen storage and transportation. Check out the updated EUA. Also check out the Storage and handling summary at uct/pfizer/downloads/storage-summary.pdf-

-laurie courtney - 3:54 PM

A: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/storage-</u> <u>summary.pdf-</u>

Andrew Fraser - 3:51 PM

Q: Do school crossing guards count as support staff?-

-Helene Bettencourt - 3:55 PM

A: Andrew, yes. crossing guards are district employees.

Kristin Black - 3:45 PM

Q: Where can we find the updated MA Quarantine Guidelines with exemption for fully vaccinated individuals?-

-laurie courtney - 3:56 PM

A: <u>https://www.mass.gov/doc/information-and-guidance-for-persons-in-quarantine-</u> <u>due-to-covid-19-1/download-</u>

Ruth Clay - 3:55 PM

Q: Can you send the Town Meeting info to everyone? We have Town Meeting scheduled for May 5-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:57 PM



A: Noted, thanks Ruth.

wendy machmuller - 3:58 PM Q: flag FB???-

-Mike Coughlin - 4:00 PM

A: it follows the EEA youth and adult sports standard-

-Mike Coughlin - 4:00 PM

A: <u>https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iii-step-2-effective-3121/download-</u>