

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 4/6/2021



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, and Laurie A. Courtney, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Ruth Blodgett, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention
- 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
- Hunter Richard, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Disaster Recovery Unit

Announcements:

CMG Associates, April Webinar Schedule: 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 (Thurs. April 29th, 10am-11am). Additional webinars to be held in May and June. Contact Bruce Cedar to register for the webinars: bcedar@cmgassociates.com

Vaccination Update, Homebound Vaccinations: Since the launch, 9,185 total incoming calls to MassOptions, and 1,483 outbound calls. 3,789 residents determined eligible (~25k people might be eligible as homebound in the Commonwealth) and sent to CCS; 1,957 referred to LBOH. Average speed to answer <15 seconds; handle time steady at 10-12 minutes. ~25% of callers live in a municipality running their own homebound program and referred to their LBOH. ~75% live in municipalities using the State Homebound Program (SHP). Of the 75%, ~2/3 are screened as eligible for homebound vaccination and the remaining are referred to 2-1-1 for other questions (10% of total). After being confirmed eligible, individuals are called back within ~3-5 days to schedule an appointment. 1,188 appointments scheduled to date, 2,632 eligible

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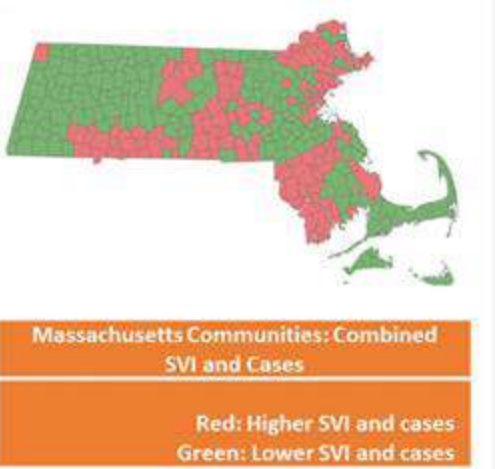
individuals yet to be scheduled. A total of 287 vaccinations performed.

Municipalities have started to receive allocation of J&J as of last week for their homebound vaccination programs.

Dr. Brown updates: Outbreak in Barnstable County associated with P.1 variant. Sequencing has been very specific to target variants of concern, and this has been used to assess the outbreak in Barnstable. This also happened in B.1.1.7, it shows up in particular positivity pattern. B.1.1.7 is widespread in MA, and there is community transmission everywhere. CDC moving away from individual case counting and instead moving towards presenting variant case data as a proportion of all COVID-19 cases.

Vaccine Equity Initiative: Goals of the initiative are to 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.

How the communities were identified: Combining the [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 Massachusetts. An analysis was done in fall 2020 by McKinsey in collaboration with external Vaccine Advisory Group. Method used county level SVI and city-level case rats. This list prioritized 40% of all communities in the Commonwealth, shown in red below:



List includes cities where case rates may be driven by congregate care sites, which have been prioritized within the phases of the vaccine deployment.

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Priority populations within these 20 communities: BIPOC; Latinx; non-English speaking/prefer to speak in another language; those with barriers to public transportation/vaccination site; those who do not feel comfortable receiving the vaccine in a traditional healthcare setting; those with disabilities and access and functional needs; homeless; those with mental illness and/or residents with substance use disorder. The list of priority populations was determined by looking at individuals disproportionately impacted by COVID, informed by case data and the COVID-19 Community Impact Survey which MDPH conducted in fall 2020.

Top 20 Prioritized High Need Communities

Community Liaison

Boston – Eduardo Nettle
Brockton – Andrew Robinson
Chelsea – Darline Duncan
Everett – Darline Duncan
Fall River - Jackie Doane
Fitchburg – Jenna David
Framingham – Barry Callis
Haverhill – Therese Fleisher
Holyoke – Therese Fleisher
Lawrence – Perla Roberts

Community Liaison

Leominster – Jenna David
Lowell – Beth Buxton
Lynn – Claudia Catalano
Malden – Washa Liu
Methuen – Beth Buxton
New Bedford – Jackie Doane
Randolph – Andrew Robinson
Revere – Claudia Catalano
Springfield – Beth Buxton
Worcester – Jenna David

Supporting community efforts: HRIA (Health Resources in Action)-led Community Grants for mitigation and vaccination outreach and collaboration with community and faith-based organizations (\$1.3M); Investments in CHCs, building capacity for CHWs through MLCHC (\$1M); Grassroots neighborhood outreach by teams of trained staff and residents led by Archipelago Strategies Group (ASG) and Health Care for All (HCFA) (\$4.7M through June); DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Ambassador Program and Community Tool Kit to assist with local meetings to answer questions about vaccine; Wide dissemination and amplification of the state’s [Trust the Facts](#) [Get the Vax Campaign](#) multilingual public awareness campaign; DPH Community Liaisons, meeting weekly with representatives from the community to identify and lift barriers to vaccine access and support community-tailored solutions.

Archipelago Strategies Group and Health Care for All: Increasing awareness about where, how, and when to get the vaccine and navigate logistical barriers for community members such a BIPOC communities, homebound seniors, disabled individuals, and those with questions or

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concerns about eligibility, registration, and access. Hyper-local, population-specific communication and outreach, tailored messages and materials. Additional efforts include door-to-door canvassing and engagement, visibility events/standouts in 'high traffic' areas, influencer recruitment, posters/signs, translated materials into most commonly spoken local languages. \$4.7 M total, ~\$3.3 M for direct local hiring.

CDC funding investments:

CDC Funding Equity Initiative Investments - Prioritized for 20 Equity Municipalities		
Community Investment	Funding	Target Date of Launch/Award
Support Municipalities and Local Boards of Health <i>Coordination and support for vaccine clinics and acceptance</i>	\$4.7M	Complete: March 30
Invest in Community Health Centers* <i>MLCHC Capacity Building</i>	\$5.1M	Early April
Help Tailor Community Outreach and Education <i>CBO/FBOs</i>	\$4.0M	End of March for existing grantees; March-May for new
Provide Direct Assistance with Vaccine Access* <i>Up to 24 months</i>	\$10.6M (rolling)	Mid-March (current contract expansions) Mid-April (RFR)
Direct Vaccine Administration in Community Settings* <i>Up to 24 months</i>	\$3.0M (rolling)	Mid-March (current contract expansions) Mid-April (RFR)
TOTAL	\$27,400,000	<i>* Eligibility may extend beyond 20 Municipalities for needs of priority populations</i>

Website: www.mass.gov/covidvaccineequity

Questions from Q&A answered out loud:

Q: Can stores allow for bulk self-serve bins? What about coffee grinder/peanut butter grinder?

A: No, bulk self-serve not allowed per retail standards. In re: to coffee grinder not allowed. Peanut butter, not sure.

Q: Are plexiglass barriers required for Farmer's Markets?

A: Guidance around Farmer's Markets is being developed. Plexiglass barriers were never required for Farmer's Markets.

Q: Travel Advisory for children <10 years old? What are they supposed to do?

A: Nothing additional to say besides what's on the Travel Advisory. We have asked for clarification from the people who created the Travel Order and have not received an answer. The Travel Advisory says the child should do what their parents should do, but now that the

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parents are vaccinated, and the child is not, from a public health standpoint it would be best if the child is tested or quarantined when coming back from travel.

Q: Residential camps and day camps for phase 4?

A: Yes allowed.

Q: Guidance for community outdoor arts festival, for socially distanced DJ, food trucks?

A: Arts festival can be hosted as an outdoor event, and the food trucks would need to have seating in front of the truck. What we don't want is for people to be eating/drinking with their mask down walking around and looking at art being less than 6ft apart from others. Outdoor DJ is allowed.

Q: Do store aisles still need to be marked as 1-way?

A: Will loop back.

Q: Will PCR tests be available for other variants?

A: Dr. Brown—I do not see PCR tests being available for these variants in the foreseeable future.

Questions from Q&A not answered out loud:

Kelli Calo - 2:53 PM

Q: Kicking this webinar off with a question: Senior Centers- can they restrict group activities to non-vaccinated individuals? Unvaccinated individuals will not be excluded from the center, but from group activities like exercise class, etc.-

-Mike Coughlin - 2:58 PM

A: We've previously recommended that any consideration of this be reviewed by Town Counsel. Requiring proof from general public is problematic. MA does not plan to adopt such a policy.-

-susan mosler - 3:00 PM

Q: a grocery store is asking if bulk item self serve bins can be used-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:02 PM

A: Sadly, no. Per the Retail Standard, "Self-serve, unattended buffets, topping bars, and other communal serving areas (such as salad bars) must remain closed."-

-Bri Eichstaedt - 3:04 PM

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Q: Are there plans to update or re-issue guidance for Farmers Markets? My market was asking if all vendors are vaccinated, do they still have to use plexi-glass/barriers? They didn't see it on the Farmers Market guidance issued by MDAR but I'm assuming yes under the retail requirements? -

-Michael Flanagan - 3:04 PM

A: There is no barrier requirement in the Retail Standard. Barriers allow for people to be closer than 6 feet. MDAR is working on an updated Farmer's Market Standard.-

-Patrick Maloney - 3:08 PM

Q: What is the current guidance for a community outdoor Arts Festival? Can it be held? Can they have food trucks? Common Out Door Seating to eat the Food Truck food (limited to 6 per table and sanitize between use) and a socially distanced DJ Could this be allowed following COVID guidelines?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:11 PM

A: It is an outdoor event and should follow the applicable standard. A food truck can be present with communal seating. -

-Mark Bushee - 3:08 PM

Q: Can day camps operate ?-

-Jennifer Robertson - 3:14 PM

A: Yes, both day and overnight camps can operate this summer. -

-Mary Goodwin - 3:19 PM

Q: If someone is fully vaccinated and has antibody testing done which is positive is that caused by the vaccine or old virus.-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:22 PM

A: A viral test (ie. PCR) will not be affected by the vaccine. For more details, see the 'Interpretation of SARS-CoV-2 test results in vaccinated people' section in the Clinical Considerations at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>-

-MaryAnn OConnor - 3:22 PM

Q: liquor store asking for whiskey tasting says I'm only one of two communities saying no others saying yes.-

-Adam Kinney - 3:23 PM

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A: Tastings in retail must be closed at this time-

-Matthew Brennan - 3:21 PM

Q: Nothing in the law prohibits door to door sales, correct??-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:24 PM

A: Correct-

-Nancy Mead - 3:19 PM

Q: What about using wooden picnic tables outside, do they need to be sanitized between use?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:25 PM

A: If they are being used as seating for a restaurant setting or food truck, yes they need to be sanitized between use per the restaurant standards-

-PAMELA FAHEY - 3:19 PM

Q: Are door-to-door sales still prohibited?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:26 PM

A: Door to door sales are allowed following the Sectors not otherwise addressed-

-Susan B Avallone - 3:22 PM

Q: Does retail or grocery stores need to continue to have aisles marked as one way?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:27 PM

A: Retail standards state: Establish directional aisles to manage customer flow for foot traffic, if possible, to minimize contact (e.g., one-way entrance and exit to the store, one-way aisles). Post clearly visible signage regarding these policies-

-Adrienne Klein - 3:30 PM

Q: Any update on numbers of educators who've accessed the Dedicated Educator Vaccination Days the past two Saturdays?-

-Judith Giorgio - 3:24 PM

Q: How is a wedding at a private residence that is catered categorized. Private dwelling or function. In reference to number of persons allowed?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:30 PM

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A: Follow the Indoor and Outdoor Event Standard for private residences(10 indoors or 25 outdoors).-

-Cheryl Messer-Lusty - 3:31 PM

Q: I have had people ask me if they could be tested for variants... will this be coming soon? And, how do LBOH find out if any variants are in their town?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:32 PM

A: Currently no, there is no allowance for vaccinated people to remove their masks in the office standards. -

-Adam Kinney - 3:33 PM

A: I apologize I answered the wrong question-

-Kristin Black - 3:31 PM

Q: Can fully vaccinated office staff remove masks if no one unvaccinated in office? Will office standards be updated to reflect CDC fully vaccinated guidance?

-Adam Kinney - 3:33 PM

A: Currently no, there is no allowance for vaccinated people to remove their masks in the office standards. -

-Noelle Freeman - 3:23 PM

Q: re: travel advisory, it's also become harder to enforce because people read it as advised and not required.-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:33 PM

A: It is an advisory now and no longer enforceable.-

-Barry Potvin - 3:33 PM

Q: Do fully vaccinated individuals count against gathering limits for indoor and outdoor events (such as weddings) in private venues such as catering halls and country clubs?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:33 PM

A: Yes-

-Phoebe Walker - 3:35 PM

Q: Do workplaces need to continue to daily screen vaccinated people? (temp, symptoms, etc)-

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-Michael Flanagan - 3:35 PM

A: Rules have not changed since 03/22. Please reference the related Standard for the workplace you are reviewing.-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:42 PM

A: There is no differentiation in the Standards for vaccinated and non-vaccinated people.-

-James Philbrook - 3:45 PM

Q: Door to door sales during a pandemic is permitted ?Can LBOH's prohibit peddler's licenses during this current pandemic?-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:44 PM

A: Yes, LBOH can be stricter than the state rules.-

-Edmund Smith - 3:45 PM

Q: An outdoor cardio class would arrive masked and is asking if participants can participate maskless once 14' spacing is created/maintained (this class is held on private property)?-

-Adam Kinney - 3:48 PM

A: There is nothing in the Standards for Fitness Centers and Health Clubs that allows for the removal of masks-

-sharon cameron - 3:53 PM

Q: What is the difference between a street festival (not allowed in this phase), and an outdoor arts festival with food trucks, which is being considered an outdoor event and allowed to have 150 people. We are getting lots of questions about summer block parties, which I consider to be a street festival, but now I am wondering.-

-Michael Flanagan - 3:56 PM

A: A street festival has more mixing of people and a higher likelihood of people being within 6 feet of each other. Per the Standard,"Street festivals and parades and agricultural festivals." are still closed.-