

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

*MDPH/LBOH Webinar 6/15/2021*



## Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Laurie Courtney, and Katie Reilly, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Michael Flanagan and Mary Dozois, Department of Labor Standards
- Helene Bettencourt and Anne Gilligan, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative
- Kristina Crandall, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

### **Announcements:**

***VaxMillions Giveaway:*** The Commonwealth is launching the [VaxMillions Giveaway](#) as one of many strategies to increase awareness of the availability and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines and to encourage residents to get vaccinated. 5 weekly statewide drawings with participants being eligible to win one of the following prizes: Mass. Residents 18+ y/o who have received both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the J&J vaccine will have a chance to win one of the five \$1 M cash prizes. Mass. Residents between 12-17 y/o who have received both doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will have a chance to win one of the five \$300,000 scholarship grants to a 529 College Savings plan managed by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). Individuals who have received the vaccine prior to these announcements are also eligible. Some exclusions are those vaccinated outside of Massachusetts. More information will be made available on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Q:** If someone did not complete the vaccine series, and are outside of the 6 week window, do they have to repeat the first dose?

**A:** They do not have to go back to the first dose, can continue to get the second dose. Best practice is to get it in the appropriate interval or within 42 days, but no need to restart the series.

***Community Health Workers Day:*** Thank you! We appreciate your hard work, compassion, and dedication to our communities.

***Vaccine update:*** Today, over 4 million people in Massachusetts have been vaccinated.

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## MDPH/LBOH Webinar 6/15/2021



**Modified Public Health Emergency Orders:** List of orders to extend—

Reissuance of Certain Public Health Orders (issued June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021) reissues 14 public health orders under Governor Baker's May 28, 2021 modified Public Health Emergency under the public health statute, to extend the public health measures listed online (these are the orders indicted to extend from the list circulated end of last week). Ex. 1. Order of the Commission of Public Health Extending the Authorization for Nursing Practice by Graduates and Senior Nursing Students of Nursing Education Programs. 2. Order of the Commission of Public Health Rescinding Order Extending Validity of Temporary Licenses to September 15, 2021 (issued June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021). Open Meeting Law question, not here. That will depend on the Legislature, not DPH. New guidance documents posted on COVID-19 Public Health Guidance and Directives:

1. Guidance for all [health care organizations](#) and providers, related to safe operation of health care settings; this replaces Phase 4 Reopening Guidance for Health Care.
2. Guidance for organizations that operate [congregate care programs](#); replaces Phase 4 Reopening Guidance for Congregate Care.
3. Guidance for [Day Programs](#); replaces Phase 4 Reopening Guidance for Congregate Care; note two related transportation documents applicable to day programs: a) [Guidance for Human Service Transportation](#) and b) [Human Service Transportation Checklist](#).
4. DPH Guidance on [visitation conditions, communal dining, congregate activities](#) in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 outbreak.
5. DPH Hospital Visitation Guidance.

**Q:** Whether or not to continue giving addresses to first responders of covid positive individuals.

**A:** This is no longer applicable.

**MassNotify:** Officially to be launched statewide on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Apple and Google will start sending push notifications to Massachusetts residents letting them know that this is live and can opt in if they wish.

**Updated testing guidance:** Updated June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. FAQs about pooled testing has also been posted. BinaxNOW Antigen tests are rapid antigen tests which can be performed at point-of-care to supplement molecular testing and help mitigate the COVID-10 pandemic. DPH has moved away from emphasizing BinaxNOW since this isn't widely available to everyone, and there are more tests that are FDA/EUA. Some announcements recently for people to not use certain tests because they haven't been approved. Close contacts definitions have changed—applies to individuals exposed indoors, those are the people who need to be tested. If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to be tested following exposure. If a fully vaxxed individual shows symptoms, this person shouldn't be tested for COVID-19 straightaway.

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## MDPH/LBOH Webinar 6/15/2021



**J&J Extension of Shelf Life:** 3 months to 4.5 months. Decision based on data from ongoing stability assessment studies, which have demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 4.5 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36-46 degrees Fahrenheit (2-8 Celsius). Expiration dates will be updates on [www.vaxcheck.jnj](http://www.vaxcheck.jnj). For Pfizer and Moderna, go their websites and type in the lot numbers. This Friday, ACIP meeting and myocarditis. Additional information can be found in [CDC Clinical Considerations](#).

**DESE updates:** Lots of schools are closing this week, and we are asking that until the end of this school year to maintain guidance in place, and for the guidance to continue for summer programs. Been receiving questions on medical waiting rooms and that's [been updated online](#).

**Q:** Health and safety requirements for schools going to be lifted for next fall?

**A:** At this point, we do not see restrictions for the fall, but this could change. We also expect students to be in school 5 days a week.

**CTC:** Cases coming into the CTC are dropping, and we are proportionally decreasing our staffing. Last cases will be coming in early September, and closing those cases by the end of September. If there are specific questions, please reach out to Local Health Liaison.

**Other updates:** Today, [CDC announced](#) that they have designated the Delta variant as of a variant of concern. Last week Alpha variant made up 50% of all cases. As of last week, just over 150 cases of the Delta. Probably more now.

**Funding reminders:** [Local Health Support for COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing RFR](#) (this is CDC funding, channeled through DPH). Ideally this links up with a shared services framework to be able to fully assume COVID-19 case and cluster investigation, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine support, and associated public health reporting responsibilities started Q2 of FY2022. Applications must be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 pm via email.

Bidder's conference is June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (via WebEx):

<https://statema.webex.com/statema/j.php?MTID=ma976a9ccfb4c507fa73f96fc799a43f6>

Deadline for Questions and Answers is June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by 12:00 pm. Email questions to:

[ceci.dunn@mass.gov](mailto:ceci.dunn@mass.gov)

Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services: Approximately 5 additional awards will be made. Applications are due June 29<sup>th</sup> at noon. [Posted on COMMBUYS](#).

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

Adrienne Klein - 3:06 PM

Q: There was a group of graduate students that were supporting public health departments across the state, can someone remind me of the group name/contact information?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:07 PM

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## MDPH/LBOH Webinar 6/15/2021



A: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/academic-health-department-academic-public-health-volunteer-corps->

---

-shelly newhouse - 3:05 PM

Q: If someone received the J & J vaccine but then got Covid can they get the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine?-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:08 PM

A: Hi Shelly. Current guidance is that people are not recommended to receive more than one complete COVID-19 vaccination series. It is possible that this guidance will change in the future.-

---

-Taylor West - 3:11 PM

Q: If someone did not complete the vaccine series but now wants the second vaccine (well outside the 6 week window) what is the guidance? Do they repeat 1st dose? or are they eligible for second dosing?-

-Mike Coughlin - 3:13 PM

A: This question has been answered verbally.-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:15 PM

A: Please see the Clinical Considerations for more info:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html> In Appendix A it states, if second dose administered more than 42 days after the first dose -> -> Do not repeat dose 1.

---

-PAMELA FAHEY - 3:14 PM

Q: Can we have a BOH meeting tonight with one board member in person and one remote? (The third member did not get sworn in after the election and is ineligible.)-

-Cheryl Sbarra - 3:16 PM

A: Municipal attorneys have differing opinions on this, with most indicating that board members need to be there in person, unless the Legislature signs the bill this afternoon.-

---

-Maribeth Ting - 3:14 PM

Q: As a public health nurse and school nurse - I'm finding that some of my student families are reporting that they've received dose 2, but it's not showing in MIIS - I've asked and the doses are coming from a variety of vaccination sites - what kind of follow up should I facilitate?-

-Laurie Courtney - 3:30 PM

# Norfolk County-8 Coalition

## MDPH/LBOH Webinar 6/15/2021

---



A: Hi MaryBeth. People should be advised to follow up with the administering provider and ask them why the information hasn't been sent to the MIIS. Separately, if you have clear, valid info that you trust, you could enter it as a historical record.-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:44 PM

A: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/faq/2021-0614faq-installment.docx>-

---

-MaryAnn OConnor - 3:33 PM

Q: are the stop the spread sites still operating anywhere?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:41 PM

A: Yes. Information is at [www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test)-

-Catherine Brown - 3:45 PM

A: Updated testing guidance page <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing-guidance>-

---

-LIDA BROWN - 3:41 PM

Q: There are still parameters for refrigerator vs. freezer correct...-

-katie reilly - 3:41 PM

A: Great info can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/index.html> -

---

-Rachel Lee - 3:46 PM

Q: Any clues as to when next age group of children will be approved for vaccine?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:47 PM

A: No clue. We are all watching with you! -

---

-Rachel Lee - 3:47 PM

Q: Thank you! -

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:47 PM

A: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/covid19-guide-updates.pdf>-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:48 PM

A: This link is the latest guidance which covers summer and fall. -

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:50 PM

A: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/faq/2021-0614faq-installment.docx> FAQ on Medical Waiting Rooms-