

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 10/26/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Sam Wong, Erica Piedade, Michael Coughlin, Rachael Cain, and Aimee Petrosky, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown, Glynnis LaRosa, and Katie Reilly, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Antonia Blinn, Academic Public Health Corps, DPH
- Anne Gilligan and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Chief Edward Dunne, Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Dr. John Welch, Community Tracing Collaborative

Announcements:

COVID-19 Vaccine Update: Information is rapidly changing, so stay tuned on additional documentation. The definition of “fully vaccinated” has not changed. For public health purposes, people who have completed a primary vaccine series (i.e. 2-dose mRNA or single dose of J&J) are considered fully vaccinated ≥ 2 weeks after completion of the primary series. The above definition applies to all people including those recommended to receive an additional single dose due to moderate to severe immunocompromised or those recommended to receive a booster dose. People who have received a booster dose should continue to follow the guidance for those fully vaccinated.

Boosters for All Three COVID-19 Vaccines (as of 10/21/2021)

There is now booster guidance for all three COVID-19 vaccines used in the USA

	Primary Series	3 rd dose in a Primary Series (moderate to severely immunocompromised persons)	Booster Dose
Pfizer, age 12+	0.3mL 2 doses 21 days or more apart	0.3mL At least 28 days after dose #2	0.3mL At least 6 months after completing a primary series
Moderna, age 18+	0.5mL 2 doses 28 days or more apart	0.5mL At least 28 days after dose #2	0.25mL At least 6 months after completing a primary series
J&J/Janssen, age 18+	0.5mL 1 dose only	N/A	0.5mL At least 2 months after dose #1

Indications for a booster dose following mRNA (Moderna or Pfizer) COVID-19 primary series have not changed: -Those 65 years and older; 18 years old and older who reside in long-term care settings; 50-64 years with certain underlying medical conditions *Should receive* a single

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mRNA booster dose ≥ 6 months after completion of primary series. -Those aged 18-49 years with certain underlying medical conditions and those aged 18-64 years at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings *may receive* a single mRNA COVID-19 vaccine booster dose ≥ 6 months after completion of primary series based on their individual risks and benefits.

Mix-and-match booster dose: The same produce that was used for the primary regimen should be used for the booster. If that is not available, or another product is preferred, heterologous boosting with a single dose of any of the authorized COVID-19 vaccine boosters is acceptable. Heterologous dosing may be considered for *booster dose only*. All doses of the primary series and additional dose (if indicated for moderately to severely immunocompromised people who receive 2 doses of mRNA vaccine) should utilize the same vaccine product. Individual benefit-risk assessment may inform which booster product to use (i.e. availability of booster product, risk profile of vaccine boosters, including rare events). The primary series vaccine product determines the appropriate interval for booster dose timing.

Moderna Multidose Vials (MDVs): Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is supplied in two MDV presentations: containing 5.5 ml and 7.5 ml. Primary series of 0.5 ml and a booster dose of 0.25 ml may be extracted from either vial presentation. When extracting *only* booster doses, or a *combination primary series and booster doses*, the maximum number of doses that may be extracted from either vial presentation *should not exceed 20 doses*. Do *not* puncture the vial stopper more than 20 times. If the amount of vaccine remaining in the vial cannot provide a full primary series dose of 0.5 ml or .25 ml for a booster dose, discard the vial and contents. Do *not pool excess* vaccine from multiple vials.

Coadministration with Other Vaccines: COVID-19 vaccine booster dose (Pfizer, Moderna, J&J) may be given with other vaccines, without regard to timing. For example, flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same visit, as recommended by CDC and ACIP. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day. If multiple vaccines are administered at a single site, administer each injection in a different injection site.

Where to find updated resources: [Booster shot webpage](#); [Clinical care considerations](#); [Updated US COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information](#) (screening form, standing order, product info.)

Upcoming Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination meetings: ACIP is scheduled to meet on Nov 2 and Nov 3.

Q: If folks got their primary series and then their booster dose

A: Yes, check interim clinical considerations.

Q: Pediatric vaccine?

A: We don't have the final recommendations yet.

Delta Variant Update: 98-99% cases of COVID-19 are Delta variant. This virus is continually evolving, and now there are sub-lineages of the Delta variant. Since the Delta variant has

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infected so many people, it's had tons of opportunity to evolve/mutate. None of these variants have supplanted the Delta variant, but the news is starting to mention the Delta+ variant. Delta+ is a sub-lineage and still very close to the Delta variant, and is not a variant of concern right now. There is no evidence right now of it being deadlier or more transmissible. Right now there are 5 instances of the Delta+ variant in Massachusetts so far. Two of the cases are household members. Nothing remarkable about the cases—they were not severely ill, not all vaccine breakthrough disease. We are continuing to monitor data coming from Broad Institute and labs at CDC, as well as international presence.

Local Public Health Nursing Data Collection Project: Project that the Academic Public Health Corps has been working on alongside the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses and DPH. The project's aim is to create a working definition of the role of local public health nurse and to develop a comprehensive picture of the varied ways that local public health nurses practice throughout the 351 cities and towns across Massachusetts. This phone survey will collect information on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the role and duties of local public health nurses, and the strategies used to support local public health nursing throughout the pandemic. All data collected will be confidential and reported out only in aggregate form. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes for the cities/towns with one public health nurse and it could take longer for cities/towns with several public health nurses. The Academic Public Health Corps members are willing to conduct these phone survey interviews during the day or in the evening as needed. We know that this is a busy time for everyone but we hope that LBOH can take the time to participate in this local public health nurses project. Please answer these calls! If you have questions, please reach out to APHC@MassMail.State.MA.US

Q: After the data has been collected and analyzed, what's the plan to disseminate the result?

A: A report will be prepared that will be shared.

DESE School Mask Update: Commissioner Riley announced today that the mask mandate for schools for children and staff will be extended until at least January 15th, 2022.

CTC: The last day that cases can be referred to the CTC is November 30th. CTC will follow up with these cases until December 17th. Wrap up information will happen around data transfers and tying up loose ends until the end of the calendar year. Local Health Liaisons will be available for help until December 30th, and then the program shuts down completely on December 31st. Potential funding sources to continue this contact tracing support are the ELC Grant, PHE Grant, and ARPA funds. We are now focusing our attention towards building infrastructure and what communities need to surveil COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. We will be reaching out to you to gather information from you about any trainings you might need, answer questions about any of the grant money you've received. We really want to hear from you about what you need to support this effort locally.

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Q: Is there a way to identify CTC staff that are up for hire after the contract ends?

A: Please send us your job descriptions/postings and we will post them kpratt@covid19.pih.org

De-escalation virtual training for Local Public Health: How do you effectively respond to a stressful environment that has lasted almost 2 years and continues to not let up? Charity Bell, Director of Learning and Development from the Department of Mental Health, has spent the past 20 years studying how we respond to our environment and how we approach anxiety based on brain science and self-awareness. Known for saying “self-care is bullsh*t”, Charity will provide tools to understand what is happening in your brain and body, ways to respond to cues, and help you reframe your perceptions to effectively respond in a way that supports your well-being. Co-sponsored with MHOA, CEUs will be available. Look for registration information in the OLRH LBOH Webinar Follow Up & Updates. Training dates: Monday, November 15th from 3pm-4:30pm. Wednesday, December 7th from 10am-11:30am.

Questions? Contact Erica Piedade at erica.m.piedade@mass.gov

Questions not answered out loud from the Q&A Chat:

-shelly newhouse - 3:01 PM

Q: Is the homebound vaccination program doing COVID booster shots?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:04 PM

A: Yes, in-home booster vaccinations are available. If the health department isn't doing boosters, people can reach out via the in-home vaccination webpage on mass.gov. -

-Caeli Tegan - 3:03 PM

Q: Can a LBOH make new vaccine cards for people they vaccinated without the person filling out an MIIS request form?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:06 PM

A: Yes, the LBOH can look up a resident in MIIS to get the vaccine information and complete a new card or print out a record. -

-Anita Arnum - 3:05 PM

Q: Can we order boosters for our homebound if we plan to deliver them??-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:06 PM

A: Yes. Vaccine ordering is done through MIIS.

-michelle borrello - 3:06 PM

Q: what if they choose not to get booster or third dose are they still considered fully vaccinated-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:07 PM

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A: Yes, the definition of fully vaccinated hasn't changed at this time and doesn't require a booster. -

-Michele Desmarais - 3:06 PM

Q: If someone received Johnson and Johnson is it 0.25 Moderna that they receive or full dose Moderna? They are requesting Moderna. -

-Katie Reilly - 3:07 PM

A: This would be considered a booster dose, and would be a 0.25mL dose of Moderna.-

-Marybeth McGrath - 3:11 PM

Q: Missed first few minutes of webinar. If local health department would like to offer covid Moderna vaccine booster clinics, can we begin to place vaccine orders in MIIS??-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:11 PM

A: Yes-

-Lauren Terzo - 3:11 PM

Q: Is it correct that someone who received a 3rd primary series dose due to moderate-severe immunocompromise, cannot receive a booster until 6 months from the 3rd dose?-

-Katie Reilly - 3:14 PM

A: Yes, I just double checked that in the CDC Interim Clinical Considerations: Moderately to severely immunocompromised people aged ≥ 18 years who received a 2-dose mRNA primary series and an additional mRNA additional dose (3 total mRNA vaccine doses) are eligible for a single COVID-19 booster dose (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Janssen) at least 6 months after completing their third mRNA vaccine dose.-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:17 PM

A: There are no current recommendations for booster doses for someone who has received a 3rd dose due to medical conditions. They FDA and CDC have indicated they will review this at a later time. -

-Dominique Taylor - 3:14 PM

Q: If LBOH have Moderna still, is it ok for us to use it for booster doses as long as we use 0.25ml?-

-Katie Reilly - 3:15 PM

A: yes, just double check the expiration date! Also, there is recommendation to not puncture the vial more than 20 times. -

-Anita Arnum - 3:04 PM

Q: Will there be another Standing order to be signed for 5-11 yo's?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:15 PM

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A: CDC develops these and we will likely see a new one for this age group. -

-Rae Dick - 3:14 PM

Q: Do we know how long the booster shot will protect a person for?? Thank u -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:17 PM

A: We do not know this yet. Data will need to be collected and submitted to FDA by the vaccine manufacturers. -

-Anita Arnum - 3:02 PM

Q: When do you anticipate distribution of pediatric Pfizer doses??-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:20 PM

A: Orders that come in from the survey for pediatric vaccine have been submitted to CDC. Once the pediatric vaccines are approved, CDC will send out vaccines in three waves - the waves should ship out over a week to 9 days and will go directly to the ordering provider. -

-Darcy Beall - 3:22 PM

Q: If a LBOH decides to offer Booster doses, do they have to also offer primary doses as well?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:24 PM

A: No, but it would be great if you would! -

-Caeli Tegan - 3:22 PM

Q: Do you have any sources of data around efficacy of heterologous boosting vs homologous boosting?-

-Glynnis LaRosa - 3:30 PM

A: Updating Standing Orders will be posted on the CDC website, they are working on them now and could be posted this week. MDPH will include links in the MDPH Vaccine Bulletin -

-Stacy Ciccolini - 3:30 PM

Q: I just want to make sure that I understand the recommendation for boosters is to give the dose of that booster being given regardless of previous vaccine? In other words, with mix n match, if getting Moderna after J&J, you would still give 1/2 dose Moderna even though they never had an MRNA vaccine? Or after getting fully vaxed with Moderna, still give a full Pfizer booster dose even though the Moderna recommendation is a half dose?-

-Katie Reilly - 3:31 PM

A: Yes, what you have written is correct. -

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-Jared Orsini - 3:32 PM

Q: Can we order vaccine specifically for our first responders as we did last winter? They have paramedic/emts to administer at odd times due to scheduling challenges for police and fire -

-Jana Ferguson - 3:33 PM

A: Yes. You can order both primary doses and booster doses, based on needs. -

-8579988244 Hardt - 3:35 PM

Q: Would be great if PHN data will be used to identify areas for state-supported PHN training and support, including behavioral health support. -

-Antonia Blinn - 3:39 PM

A: Thank you! for your thoughts. They have been noted.-

-Neia Illingworth - 3:13 PM

Q: We will need updated standing orders to give booster doses. The CDC has not updated the standing orders for Moderna vaccine or the J&J vaccine. Is the state going to provide updated standing orders? Or when will the CDC be updating their standing orders?-

-Katie Reilly - 3:39 PM

A: CDC will be updating the Moderna and J&J standing orders soon. Please check: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/index.html> -

-Margaret Sullivan - 3:41 PM

Q: Does the new mask mandate impact schools who have applied for the waiver?-

-Anne Marie Stronach - 3:44 PM

A: If an individual school has received an approved waiver, they have the authority to address the mask requirement at the local level-

-8579988244 Hardt - 3:41 PM

Q: I think there was a way to identify CTC staff who may be up for hire after the state contract ends - is that still the case, maybe through the LHL's?-

-John Welch - 3:46 PM

A: Please share your job descriptions and postings with kpratt@covid19.pih.org. We have a specific job posting area within the CTC and highlight those jobs weekly.-

-Anita Arnum - 3:01 PM

Q: What if someone is 11 yrs now, but turns 12 less than 3 weeks after first dose of Pfizer...what dose do they get for second shot???-

-Katie Reilly - 3:46 PM

A: You should provide the dose that is recommended for the age the child is at the time they are receiving the dose. -

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-James Philbrook - 3:34 PM

Q: Jana, what happened to the booster clinic in Southbridge , for Charlton, Sturbridge and Southbridge ?-

-Jana Ferguson - 3:46 PM

A: Hi Jim - Are you talking about the high-throughput site? I can check with the team that's working on that for your area.-

End of notes.