

***What You Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccines***  
***April 5th, 2021***

*This document has been prepared by the Home Care Alliance of MA based on guidance from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH); it will be updated when new information becomes available or if additional vaccine products are authorized.*

**I. General Information About COVID-19 Vaccines**

**• Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine:**

- Dosage: 0.5 mL, from multidose vial: 10 to 11 doses per vial
- Administration: Intramuscular (IM) injection in the deltoid muscle
- Schedule: 2-dose series separated by 28 days. A series started with Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should be completed with this product.
- Age Indications: 18 years of age and older
- [Moderna Vaccine FAQs](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)

**• Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine:**

- Dosage: 0.3 mL from multidose vial: 6 doses per vial. Vaccine MUST be mixed with diluent before administration.
- Administration: Intramuscular (IM) injection in the deltoid muscle
- Schedule: 2-dose series separated by 21 days  
A series started with Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine should be completed with this product.
- Age Indications: 16 years of age and older
- [Pfizer Vaccine FAQs](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Patients](#)

**• Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine:**

- Dosage: 0.5mL from multidose vial: 5 doses per vial. Do NOT mix with a diluent. Discard vial when there is not enough vaccine to obtain a complete dose. Do NOT combine residual vaccine from multiple vials to obtain a dose.

- Administration: Intramuscular (IM) injection in the deltoid muscle
- Schedule: Single dose
- Age Indications: 18 years of age and older
- [Janssen Vaccine FAQs](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Providers](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)

Table 1: Summary of General Information for COVID-19 Vaccines

	<b>Pfizer</b>	<b>Moderna</b>	<b>Janssen</b>
Age group	≥ 16 y/o	≥ 18 y/o	≥ 18 y/o
Dose schedule	2 doses, 3 weeks apart	2 doses, 4 weeks apart	Single dose
Dose/route	0.3 mL/intramuscular	0.5 mL/ intramuscular	0.5 mL/ intramuscular
Reconstitution	Reconstitute with 1.8 mL of sterile Sodium Chloride Injection, USP. Use within 6 hours of dilution.	No	No
Standing orders	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/standing-orders.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/standing-orders.pdf</a>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/standing-orders.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/standing-orders.pdf</a>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/downloads/Janssen-Standing-Orders.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/downloads/Janssen-Standing-Orders.pdf</a>
Storage/handling summary	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/storage-summary.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/storage-summary.pdf</a>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/storage-summary.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/downloads/storage-summary.pdf</a>	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/downloads/janssen-storage-handling-summary.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/downloads/janssen-storage-handling-summary.pdf</a>
Expiration date	On vials	Scan the QR code located on the vial or carton or go directly to <a href="http://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua">http://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua</a>	Scan QR code on outer carton or call 1-800-565-4008 or go to <a href="http://www.vaxcheck.jnj">www.vaxcheck.jnj</a>
Return shipping container information	<a href="https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/Return%20Instructions.pdf">https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/Return%20Instructions.pdf</a>	Use the mailing label on the inside of a flap on the box.	Do not return shipping containers.
Website for more information	<a href="http://www.cvdvaccine.com">www.cvdvaccine.com</a>	<a href="https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/">https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/</a>	<a href="https://www.janssencovid19vaccine.com/">https://www.janssencovid19vaccine.com/</a>

Source: [MDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance for Vaccine Providers](#)

## II. Clinical Considerations for the Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines

- [Summary Document for Interim Clinical Considerations-CDC](#)
- See [CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for updated information on:
  - Administration of 2<sup>nd</sup> doses
  - Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products
  - Vaccination of persons with SARS-CoV-19 infection or exposure
  - Vaccination of pregnant people and those with certain medical conditions
  - Patient counseling
  - Contraindications and Precautions
  - Vaccine administration errors and deviation
  - The CDC recently updated its [list of conditions](#) which can make an individual more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19

- **Contraindications**

A history of the following is a **contraindication** to vaccination with COVID-19 vaccines:

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine.

- **Precautions**

- A history of an immediate allergic reaction to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous vaccines or therapies [excluding subcutaneous immunotherapy for allergies, i.e., “allergy shots”]) is a precaution but not a contraindication to vaccination.
- People with a reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy that contains multiple components, one of which is a vaccine component, but in whom it is unknown which component elicited the immediate allergic reaction, have a precaution to vaccination.
- People with a contraindication to one type of the currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines (e.g., mRNA) have a precaution to the other (e.g., Janssen viral vector).

### III. V-Safe After Vaccination Health Tracker

Providers should give all vaccine recipients information and encourage them to enroll in *V-safe*, a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after COVID-19 vaccination. Through V-safe, vaccine recipients report side effects to CDC and receive reminders about their second COVID-19 vaccine dose if they need one. For more information and fact sheets go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>

### IV. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System

Health care personnel are required to report certain adverse events following vaccination to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#). VAERS is a passive reporting system, meaning it relies on individuals to send in reports of their experiences. Anyone can submit a report to VAERS, including parents and patients.

- Healthcare providers are **required by law** to report to VAERS:
  - Any adverse event listed in the [VAERS Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination](#) that occurs within the specified time period after vaccinations,
  - An adverse event listed by the vaccine manufacturer as a contraindication to further doses of the vaccine,
- Healthcare providers are strongly **encouraged** to report to VAERS:
  - Any adverse event that occurs after the administration of a vaccine licensed in the United States, whether it is or is not clear that a vaccine caused the adverse event.
  - Vaccine administration errors
- How to Report an Adverse Event to VAERS:
  - Go to [vaers.hhs.gov](http://vaers.hhs.gov) and submit a report online.
  - For Help: call 1-800-822-7967, email [info@VAERS.org](mailto:info@VAERS.org)
  - [Video instructions](#)

For more information, read [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations](#).

## V. Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination

Except as noted in **Updated Recommendations**, Health Care Professionals (HCP) should continue to follow all [current infection prevention and control recommendations](#), including those addressing work restrictions, quarantine, testing, and use of personal protective equipment to protect themselves and others from SARS-CoV-2 infection.

### Updated Recommendations:

- **Work restriction for asymptomatic healthcare personnel**

*The following recommendations are based on what is known about currently available COVID-19 vaccines.*

- Fully vaccinated HCP with [higher-risk exposures](#) who are asymptomatic do not need to be restricted from work for 14 days following their exposure. Work restrictions for the following fully vaccinated HCP populations with higher-risk exposures should still be considered for:
  - HCP who have underlying immunocompromising conditions (e.g., organ transplantation, cancer treatment), which might impact level of protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccine. However, data on which immunocompromising conditions might affect response to the COVID-19 vaccine and the magnitude of risk are not available.
  - HCP who have traveled should continue to follow CDC [travel recommendations and requirements](#), including restriction from work, when recommended for any traveler.

- **SARS-CoV-2 Testing**

Recommendations for [SARS-CoV-2 testing for HCP](#) remain unchanged.

- **Use of Personal Protective Equipment**

Recommendations for [use of personal protective equipment by HCP](#) remain unchanged.

## VI. COVID-19 Vaccines for the Homebound

The Commonwealth developed a detailed resource guide on the [Massachusetts Homebound Vaccination Program Resource Guide](#) for people who cannot leave their home for a vaccine appointment, even with assistance. These individuals will receive the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine because it is a single dose schedule. Note: The state definition of homebound is more restrictive than the definition that determines eligibility for Medicare home health services.

These homebound individuals either:

- Require ambulance or two-person assistance to leave the home, or
- Are unable to leave home for medical appointments under normal circumstances, or
- Have considerable difficulty and/or require significant support to leave the home for medical appointments.

Examples of **eligible individuals** include those **unable to leave the home because:**

- "Bedbound"
- Significant cognitive or behavioral needs (dementia, panic disorder)
- Frail individual who can barely leave home and requires significant support to do so,
- Individual with significant, ongoing mobility issues who has trouble getting to the doctor.

Ineligibility for In-home Vaccination Program:

- Individuals who can access a vaccination site with transportation support, even if they prefer in-home vaccination,
- Individuals who are short-term/ temporarily homebound,
- Individuals who reside in a Long-Term Care facility.

Agencies serving homebound clients may want to give them copies of the resource guide and should refer them to the State Homebound Vaccination Central Intake Line **(833) 983-0485** to be screened for appropriateness for an in-home vaccine.

The Central Intake Line will help connect any homebound individual from across the Commonwealth with the right local resource. If in-home vaccination is appropriate, individuals will be registered with the State Homebound Vaccine Provider, Commonwealth Care Alliance, or referred to their local Board of Health based on where they live.

## VII. Home Health Agencies Interested in Providing In-Home Vaccines

The Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA) is interested in subcontracting with home health agencies to administer the vaccine to eligible individuals. CCAs will provide a logistical and technological infrastructure to enroll providers; intake referrals of residents determined eligible; schedule, assign, and route appointments; and receive, store, and distribute vaccines.

Interested home health agencies (HHA) will be expected to provide vaccinators: credentialed nurses, who complete assigned trainings prior to first vaccination appointment. The HHA is responsible to upload availability approximately two weeks before appointment dates. Vaccinator will pick up and drop off vaccine/supplies from regional hub (Charlestown, Worcester, Lawrence, or Springfield) at beginning and end of day.

The home visit is expected to be 45 minutes for single-vaccine household appointment, with approximately 15-minute travel time depending on route/region. Vaccinations are routed in batches of five based on Johnson and Johnson vial.

Reimbursement for the visits has been determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, though contracted providers will be paid by CCA. The reimbursement is fully loaded to include transportation costs, and all required supplies are being provided by CCA. Only successfully completed vaccinations provided to scheduled individuals will be eligible for reimbursement, at \$100 for first vaccination provided in a household and \$20 for each additional vaccination provided in a household (if applicable).

CCA launched this program in late-March and scaling up over several weeks. For more details about the program, including CCA contact information, [click here](#).

## VIII. Replacing lost COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards

COVID-19 vaccine providers and vaccination sites can print out vaccine records from the MIIS.

- If a patient has lost their COVID-19 Vaccination Card, their provider can print out their immunization record from the MIIS, using this [Mini Guide](#).
- If that is not possible, vaccine recipients can complete and notarize an [Immunization Record Request Form](#) to submit to the DPH MIIS office. Please note that by using this request form, recipients will receive their complete history of vaccines administered, not just the COVID-19 vaccine and it can up to 6 weeks to receive.
- Vaccinators can order new COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards in English and Spanish from the [Massachusetts Clearing House](#) at no cost.

## IX. Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

The CDC released initial recommendations for fully vaccinated people. This guidance will be updated and expanded based on the level of community spread of SARS-CoV-2, the proportion of the population that is fully vaccinated, and the rapidly evolving science on COVID-19 vaccines.

For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen).

The following recommendations apply to **non-healthcare settings**. Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing.
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at [increased risk for severe COVID-19](#) disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households.
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings.
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers.
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations.

For related information for healthcare settings, visit [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

## X. Vaccinated People Who Subsequently Develop COVID-19

If a person is fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks after completion of a two-dose mRNA series or single dose of Janssen vaccine) and tests positive for SARS-CoV-2,



healthcare providers and local health departments are encouraged to request the specimen be held and to report the case to Mass DPH. CDC will work with the state health department to collect information about the case.

In addition, information about these cases should be reported to VAERS.

## **XI. Training and education for healthcare professionals**

- [The CDC training and core competencies](#) based on the professional's role:
  - Nurses and practical nurses who have administered vaccine in the last twelve months.
  - Nurses and practical nurses who are licensed to administer vaccines but have not done so in the last 12 months.
- CDC is offering a series of brief (15-20 minute) webinars with CE credit:
  1. [Preventing Vaccine Administration Errors: A Primer for Healthcare Workers](#)
  2. [A Primer for Healthcare Workers on Storing and Transporting Vaccines](#)
- Massachusetts [COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Outreach Materials](#)
- Visit [www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineProviders](http://www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineProviders) for [vaccine provider FAQ 3 15 21](#); detailed [guidance](#) on vaccine management and administration; and CDC and FDA [resources](#) such as v-safe.
- [EUA fact sheets](#) for providers and caregivers, available in multiple languages.

