



Dear Families,

As [Massachusetts' COVID-19 vaccine plan](#) rolls out throughout the state, we wanted to provide you with the most updated information and resources to educate yourself and others about the COVID-19 vaccine. At Advocates, we are optimistic that the next several months will help move us all forward in our shared fight against this virus. We must stay vigilant to keep everyone healthy.

At this time, we do not have an update for when your loved one supported by Advocates will receive the COVID-19 vaccine. However, we do know they will be eligible in Phase 2 and 3. Please understand we are working closely with our partners in government and we will provide this information as soon as it becomes available to us.

Building greater awareness of how the vaccine works, and its benefits, is important to us as we care for each other in the Advocates community. We hope these resources help answer questions you and your loved one may have about the vaccine and help reduce stress.

## Resources

- [MA's COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)
- [Benefits of Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [How the COVID-19 Vaccine Works](#)
- [MA's Vaccine Phases/Prioritization](#)
- [How to Continue to Protect Yourself and Others](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Facts](#)

## COVID-19 Vaccine

Your need-to-know details about the COVID-19 Vaccine\*

- It is SAFE**  
The available COVID-19 vaccines are approved and recommended by the FDA and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices following standard testing and approval processes.  
By prioritizing resources and efforts, the vaccines were developed quickly and never at the expense of safety. For more on vaccine safety visit [mass.gov/COVIDVaccineSafety](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccineSafety)
- It is FREE**  
The COVID-19 vaccine is being administered free of charge to all individuals by the federal government.  
Insurance information may be asked for by those administering the vaccine in order to bill-back to insurance. However, you will not be charged. If you do not have insurance, you are still eligible to receive the vaccine free of charge.
- You need TWO doses to be FULLY vaccinated**  
Until you are fully vaccinated, you can still contract and spread COVID-19.  
Not everyone will be vaccinated when you are. And while we know it dramatically reduces severe cases and symptoms, we are still learning about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions. Continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, keep distance and avoid groups between doses and even after your second dose.
- Your two doses need to be administered from the SAME SITE**  
You must receive your second dose of the same vaccine at the same site as your first.
  - Pfizer vaccine: 21 days following first dose
  - Moderna vaccine: 28 days following first doseSecond doses should be administered within 4 days following the 21 or 28 day mark.  
Before leaving your first dose appointment, schedule or confirm how to setup your next appointment.
- Find out when you can get vaccinated at [mass.gov/covidvaccinephases](https://mass.gov/covidvaccinephases)**  
Massachusetts developed a phased COVID-19 vaccine distribution timeline focused on equity and safety. The timeline focuses on maintaining health care system capacity, addressing inequities in health care access and the COVID-19 burden, and protecting vulnerable populations. Each phase has priority groups within them. For regularly updated priority groups and eligible jobs and medical conditions, visit [mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases)

\* This information was last updated 1/14/21 and applies to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, phases, and more visit [mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases)

View Fact Sheet in: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Simplified Chinese](#)

It is important to remember that to ensure the safety of everyone, with or without the vaccine, that we all continue to practice the protocols and measures put in place by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Please let us know if there is additional information that you would find helpful at this time. We will continue to update you as new plans are changing frequently.

Thank you for all that you do.

Family Communication COVID-19 Update 1/22/20  
Subject Line: COVID-19 Vaccine Update for Your Loved Ones

Be well,  
Diane Gould  
President & CEO

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