

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Here is an update with information on state and federal vaccine distribution plans and processes, to help you be prepared for vaccinations at your residences. Last week Mass-ALA sent members a [vaccine delivery update](#) as we awaited the FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech. We included information on steps that can be taken as you prepare for your COVID-19 Vaccine clinic. Today, we are sharing the latest information and updates to last week's message as well as important regulatory considerations when offering a COVID-19 Vaccine clinic.

Last week, we provided contact information for CVS and although we had reached out to Walgreens, we had not heard back from them in time to include their contact information in that email. We now have the contact information for both CVS and Walgreens.

- If you are registered with CVS for vaccine delivery and have not received information from them or would need to reach out with questions, you may contact them at: [CovidVaccineClinicsLTFC@CVSHealth.com](mailto:CovidVaccineClinicsLTFC@CVSHealth.com)
- If you are registered with Walgreens for vaccine delivery and have not received information from them or would need to reach out with questions, you may contact them at: [immunizeltc@walgreens.com](mailto:immunizeltc@walgreens.com)

Last week the FDA approved the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19. Yesterday, the FDA advisory panel also voted to recommend the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). It is anticipated that the FDA will issue an EUA for the Moderna vaccine today.

Earlier this week, Mary Lou Sudders, Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, outlined the prioritized plan for rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine. Secretary Sudders noted that the vaccine will be made available at no charge in order to ensure the widest possible distribution. Secretary Sudders encouraged providers to submit questions about the vaccination plan to [COVID-19-vaccine-plan-MA@mass.gov](mailto:COVID-19-vaccine-plan-MA@mass.gov). The [MA COVID guidance website](#) will be continually updated as more information becomes available.

During the weekly DPH call with long term care, rest home, and assisted living providers, an update was given regarding the Pharmacy Partnership with CVS and Walgreens. Vaccine clinics are expected to begin on December 28<sup>th</sup> for

long term care facilities and clinics in rest homes and assisted living residences are expected to begin in January.



## PHASE ONE

In order of priority

- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care



## PHASE TWO

In order of priority

- Individuals with 2+ comorbidities (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
- Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Adults 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity



## PHASE THREE

Vaccine available to general public

**December - February**

Estimated timeframes

**February - April**

**April - June**

## REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

As the Covid-19 vaccination process begins, ALRs are reminded that, while much of 651 CMR 12.06(8)(d) specifically addresses requirements related to influenza vaccines, the regulation contemplates other forms of vaccination. As a result, ALRs should assure compliance with the documentation requirements of 651 CMR 12.06(8)(f). This provision of the regulations states:

651 CMR 12.06(8)(f) A Residence shall require and maintain for each employee proof of current vaccination pursuant to 651 CMR 12.06(8)(c) and (d), or the individual's declination statement pursuant to 651 CMR 12.06(8)(e). Such information shall be made available for review by EOEa during a Compliance Review pursuant to 651 CMR 12.09.

Under this provision, each ALR is required to secure and maintain proof of current vaccination. In the case of the COVID-19 vaccination, a copy of the completed (all two doses) vaccination card is the most accurate documentation. While 3<sup>rd</sup> party immunizers such as CVS and Walgreens have no obligation to provide such documentation to the ALR, employees should be made aware they need to provide the ALR with this documentation.

Also, an ALR must have documentation of an employee's refusal to receive the vaccine. As this is not something that CVS or Walgreens is providing as they are solely focused on providing the immunizations, each ALR should have a form or document on which an employee indicates he or she declines the vaccine and the reason why.

**If you have questions, please contact, [MassALA@mass-ala.org](mailto:MassALA@mass-ala.org)**

*\*The information provided in this COVID 19 update is solely for general informational purposes to assist in understanding the evolving guidance regarding the current COVID 19 public health threat. It is not intended to be a primary public health or medical resource, but is provided as a clearinghouse for or compilation of various guidance issued by official and related sources.*

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