

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Last week, Mass-ALA shared the EOEA Guidance regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Administration, indicating that the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program that supported the vaccination efforts last winter will not be reinstated for booster deployment and offering suggestions for all ALRs to begin planning for administration of the booster.

Mass-ALA has seven pharmacies that are business partner members, they are:

- Acton Pharmacy – currently running flu vaccine clinics at assisted living communities that are currently customers.
<https://dinhohealth.com/actonpharmacy/>
- Andrews Pharmacy – has not made any decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccine booster clinics. <https://andrewspharmacy.com/>
- Bouvier Pharmacy and Home Medical Solutions – located in Marlborough and will travel to assisted living communities in the Metro West region.
<http://www.bouvierpharmacy.com/>
- Greater Boston Long Term Care Pharmacy – will travel to all parts of Massachusetts. <https://www.greaterbostonlongtermcare.com/>
- Partners Pharmacy – will travel to all parts of Massachusetts.
<https://www.partnerspharmacy.com/>
- Prescott Pharmacy – will travel to all parts of Massachusetts.
<https://prescottpharmacy.com/>
- ProCare LTC Pharmacy – will travel to all parts of Massachusetts.
<http://www.procareltc.com/>

The majority of these pharmacies are currently running flu vaccine clinics at assisted living residences. They are prepared to conduct COVID-19 vaccine booster clinics onsite at assisted living residences in their area. They will organize with the ALR in setting up these clinics and will provide personnel to administer the booster shot.

Following the more recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) update, EOEA has issued another guidance regarding the availability of the Pfizer Booster vaccine.

Please see below the line break for the communication from EOEA and see [attached](#) for the notice from the CDC.

Good afternoon,

In accordance with updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the **Pfizer COVID-19 Booster** is now available to **individuals 65 years of age and older**, individuals 18-64 years of age at risk for **severe COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions**, and individuals 18-64 years of age who are at **increased risk for COVID-19 because of occupational or institutional settings** who have previously received the Pfizer vaccine. These residents are eligible to receive their Pfizer booster shot **at least 6 months after their second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine**

Please find the press release below and a one-pager for Assisted Living Residences [attached](#).

Massachusetts residents will be able to receive Pfizer COVID-19 booster doses from more than 460 locations, including over 450 retail pharmacies, with some appointments available now for booking. Additional appointments are expected to come online in the coming days.

The following individuals are eligible for the Pfizer booster at least six months after their second dose:

- Individuals 65 years of age and older.
- Individuals 18-64 years of age at risk for severe COVID-19 due to [certain underlying medical conditions](#) as defined by the CDC.
- Individuals 18-64 years of age who are at increased risk for COVID-19 because of occupation or institutional settings.

For more information from the CDC, please click [here](#).

Assisted Living Residences are encouraged to leverage existing pharmacy partnerships or other clinical provider relationships to schedule an onsite Pfizer COVID-19 booster clinic or provide transportation to vaccine providers in the community. For additional information on that process, please see the attached one-pager. *If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact ALRHelp@mass.gov.*

If residents or staff are interested in scheduling their own Pfizer COVID-19 booster appointment:

1. **Visit the Vaxfinder** at vaxfinder.mass.gov for a full list of hundreds of locations to receive a booster. Residents will be able to narrow results to search for locations that are offering boosters. *Please note, many locations are booking appointments out weeks in advance.*
2. For individuals who are unable to use Vaxfinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet, the **COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line** is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday 9AM-2PM by **calling 2-1-1** and following the prompts is available for assistance. *The COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available to in approximately 100 additional languages.*

The Pfizer COVID-19 booster is safe, effective, and free. Individuals do not need an ID or health insurance to access a booster. Additional information on the COVID-booster, including FAQs, can be found at mass.gov/COVID19booster. Individuals can check if they are eligible for a booster using the eligibility tool at mass.gov/BoosterCheck.

As more information becomes available on booster vaccines for individuals who have received either the Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccine, the Administration will provide updated information.

Thank you for your continued effort to support older adults across the Commonwealth in accessing and receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters. We are grateful for your partnership

Thank you,

Trisha Marchetti

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If you have any questions, please contact us at Mass-ALA@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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