



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
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Memorandum

TO: Hospital Chief Executive Officers

FROM: Elizabeth Daake Kelley, MBA, MPH
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

SUBJECT: Vaccination of Admitted Patients

DATE: May 24, 2021

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with state, federal and local partners on the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

Vaccinating patients is a crucial step in preventing the spread of COVID-19. It is DPH's expectation that hospitals will vaccinate any admitted patient who is not fully vaccinated, is eligible for COVID-19 vaccine and consents to vaccination.

This includes, but is not limited to, those patients who will, or likely will, require post-acute care. If available, hospitals should administer either the Moderna vaccine so that post-acute care facilities can more easily facilitate the administration of the second dose of vaccine or the Janssen vaccine so that patients are fully vaccinated after one dose. If an admitted patient is ready for a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, DPH expects that the hospital will provide the second dose on the appropriate date. Hospitals should provide vaccination information, including date administered, product name, manufacturer and lot number as part of the discharge summary to the receiving post-acute care facility. If a patient is discharged to a post-acute setting and requires a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, the post-acute care facility must be responsible for facilitating the second dose.

As a reminder, it is the responsibility of the vaccinator to report vaccine side effects to FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

The VAERS toll-free number is 1-800-822-7967. You may also report online via the following page: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

Please visit DPH's website for up-to-date information on COVID-19 and vaccine efforts in Massachusetts: <https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus> and <https://www.mass.gov/vaccine>.

For additional information, including clinical resources, see CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/vaccination.html>.