



## **Information for Assisted Living Residences on Pfizer COVID-19 Booster**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) have authorized the Pfizer COVID-19 Booster for **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 booster shot **at least six months after their second dose** of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Massachusetts leads the nation in vaccine administration. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, including against the widely circulating Delta variant. The CDC recommends that protection from COVID-19 is improved with the addition of a booster shot, especially for individuals at higher risk. **The Administration has worked with health care providers, retail pharmacies and community partners to ensure the availability of hundreds of locations for eligible residents to receive the authorized Pfizer COVID-19 booster.**

Similar to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Massachusetts residents will have a range of options to receive Pfizer COVID-19 booster doses, including more than 460 retail pharmacies. **The Administration will continue to make vaccines widely available.** The first priority is to increase administration of first and second doses in residents not yet vaccinated. Getting vaccinated remains the most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves, their families, and their community. Second, fully vaccinated residents should receive a COVID-19 booster shot when they are eligible and as authorized by the CDC. **At this time, only the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized as a booster.**

**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 occupational or institutional settings.

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



**For eligible residents and staff of Assisted Living Residences the following options may be available for getting a Pfizer COVID-19 booster.**

#### **Schedule an Appointment at a Vaccine Provider Location**

1. **Visit the Vaxfinder** tool at [vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://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. *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.*

#### **Provide Transportation to Vaccine Providers in the Community**

- Leverage an existing partnership with a community-based organization or other local transportation provider to arrange for regularly scheduled visits to community vaccine locations for residents and staff.

#### **Leverage Existing Pharmacy Partnerships or other Medical Provider Relationships**

- Leverage an existing pharmacy partnership to schedule and plan for an onsite clinic.
- Registered vaccine providers may now order all COVID vaccines in smaller quantities than was previously allowed, and directly through the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). FEMA reimbursement for vaccination clinic costs has been extended through the end of the 2021 calendar year. Vaccine administration reimbursements for boosters will be the same amount as for 1st and 2nd doses.

*If you need assistance scheduling an onsite Pfizer booster clinic, please contact [ALRhelp@mass.gov](mailto:ALRhelp@mass.gov).*

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](https://mass.gov/COVID19booster).

If an individual does not have their vaccination record, they should contact their primary care provider. If that is not possible, learn how to obtain your vaccination record, by visiting [mass.gov/myvaxrecord](https://mass.gov/myvaxrecord). *Please note, the request may take up to two weeks.*