

# Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine for Individuals with Two or More of Certain Health Conditions



Beginning February 18, 2021, people with two or more of certain health conditions are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and provided for free.

## Eligibility

The CDC has defined the list of conditions below that cause individuals to be at an **increased risk** of severe illness from COVID-19. Massachusetts has also identified moderate-to-severe asthma as an eligible condition.

**Individuals age 16 and older with two or more** of these medical conditions are eligible to receive the vaccine beginning February 18, 2021. **You will not need a doctor's note or other documentation to show you have two or more of the above conditions.**

### Conditions:

- [Cancer](#)
- [Chronic kidney disease](#)
- [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#)
- [Down Syndrome](#)
- [Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant<sup>1</sup>](#)
- [Obesity and severe obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher\)](#)
  - Calculate your BMI here: [Adult BMI Calculator | CDC](#)
- [Pregnancy<sup>2</sup>](#)
- [Sickle cell disease](#)
- [Smoking](#)
- [Type 2 diabetes mellitus](#)
- [Asthma \(moderate-to-severe\)](#)

Learn more from [CDC: COVID-19: People with Certain Medical Conditions](#)

## When can I get vaccinated?

Vaccinations for people with two or more of the medical conditions listed above will begin on February 18, 2021 and continue throughout the remainder of the winter and into the spring and

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<sup>1</sup>This group does not include individuals who are immunocompromised due to other conditions, such as blood or bone marrow transplant or HIV

<sup>2</sup>If you are pregnant or breastfeeding and have questions around getting vaccinated, a discussion with your healthcare provider might help you make an informed decision. Learn more about [vaccine safety and pregnancy](#).

summer. Appointment scheduling for these individuals will be available starting February 18, 2021.

The current COVID-19 vaccines require two doses. You will not be fully vaccinated until you receive both doses, and both doses should be administered at the same location.

## How do I book an appointment?

Appointments can be scheduled online by visiting [vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov). Individuals can enter their ZIP Code or City/Town name to find an appointment online. While there is extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, new appointments will continually be added to the website regularly, and the mass vaccination sites have the most availability for appointments. As of now, mass vaccination sites post appointments weekly, on Thursday, and some smaller sites, such as CVS, post more frequently. If you are unable to secure an appointment, please continue to check the website.

Steps to book an appointment:

1. Visit [vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov)
2. enter their ZIP Code or City/Town to identify a location
3. Have your important information with you, such as your insurance card
4. Fill out the self-attestation form through the appointment booking process

## Locations to Get Vaccinated

Because vaccine supply is limited, **you may need to wait several weeks to schedule an appointment.** Please visit the Commonwealth's [webpage with vaccination sites](#) for the current list of open sites, including:

1. **Mass vaccination sites**, such as Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, the Eastfield Mall in Springfield, the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Danvers, the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury and others. These sites currently have the most availability for appointments;
2. Regional **vaccine clinics** operated by a local board of health;
3. **Over 100 Local pharmacies** and retail locations administering the vaccine; or
4. **Your housing property.** If you live in [public or private affordable low income senior housing](#) there may be an onsite clinic being planned, check with your management company.

Please note that this list will be updated frequently as new sites come on line. **All mass vaccination locations are wheelchair accessible and do not require consumers to use stairs.** Many of the locations have a drop off area for people who may benefit from walking shorter distances and people will not be waiting in line outside. Some locations may also provide mobility assistance. **Language translation services are available for all mass vaccination locations** and many other vaccination locations. Please review the specific vaccination location details to determine whether this is an appropriate fit for your accessibility needs.

## Assistance Scheduling an Appointment

Individuals who are **unable to use or have difficulty accessing the internet** to schedule an appointment online may use the ***Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line***:

**Call 2-1-1 (877-211-6277) and follow prompts for assistance booking an appointment**

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Friday through Sunday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and will have translators available to support residents in approximately 100 additional languages. Individuals will be able to speak to a representative live on the phone to assist them with an appointment through the state's online system. **These representatives have the same access to appointments as on the public website; they do not have access to additional appointments.** If no appointments are available, callers will have the option to be placed on a call back list for the mass vaccination sites. The caller will receive a call back when an appointment becomes available for them at a mass vaccination site, and the list will be called on a first-come, first-served basis.

Your health insurer may be able to assist you schedule an appointment as well.

For individuals who are unable to leave their home for a medical appointment without an ambulance or two-people assisting them, the Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that all eligible for a vaccine are able to access it. Additional information regarding vaccination options for these individuals will be released shortly. Please note, that some people may be able to receive the vaccine if they live at an eligible affordable senior housing property, where an on-location clinic may be planned.

## Eligibility Criteria

When scheduling your appointment or at the time of the appointment, you will be required to review the eligibility criteria and confirm you are eligible to receive the vaccine. The attestation will be done verbally over the phone, verbally or in writing at the vaccination site, or online if using an online appointment scheduling tool. You can also follow online instructions and complete the [COVID-19 Massachusetts Vaccination Attestation Form available on the mass.gov website](#).

**You will not need a doctor's note or other documentation to show you have two or more of the above conditions. You can receive the vaccine even if you do not have health insurance, an SSN, or a photo ID. However, if you have any of this information or documentation, please bring it with you.**

**You will never be asked for a credit card number or any other form of payment for the vaccine.**

## COVID-19 Vaccine Importance and Safety

**The COVID-19 vaccines are 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. Vaccines undergo rigorous testing and large clinical trials with diverse participants before they are approved for widespread use. Vaccination is the best protection to reduce the risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. Getting vaccinated may also protect others around you who have not yet received the vaccine. For more on vaccine safety, visit [mass.gov/covidvaccinesafety](https://www.mass.gov/covidvaccinesafety).

The vaccine is proven to be extremely effective, but it's important for all residents to practice prevention until they get both doses and their body builds immunity. While the vaccines have been shown to be effective in helping the person vaccinated not get seriously ill from COVID-19, they have not yet been proven to reduce that person's ability to transmit COVID-19 to others. Continue to social distance, wear a mask, avoid groups and stay home if you feel sick.

If you have any concerns about getting the vaccine due to a medical condition, please discuss these concerns with your primary care physician. For more information on COVID-19 vaccine safety visit [www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccineSafety](https://www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccineSafety).

## Additional Information

Information on the COVID-19 vaccine will be updated regularly. Please also use the following resources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information in Massachusetts](#)
- [Latest COVID-19 Vaccine Updates in Massachusetts](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Timeline and Eligibility](#)
- [Current COVID-19 Vaccine Locations](#)
- [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program \(MCVP\)](#)
- [Information for staff and residents of long term care facilities, ALRs and Rest Homes](#)
- [Information for residents and staff of affordable senior housing](#)
- [Information for home based health care workers](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety](#)
- [Sign-up for COVID-19 Alerts](#)