



MASSACHUSETTS
MEDICAL SOCIETY



July 29, 2022

Dear Massachusetts Health Care Providers,

Massachusetts is a leader in COVID-19 vaccinations because of you! Through your support and partnership, over 3 million residents of the Commonwealth have received booster shots to date, and almost 600,000 have received a second booster dose. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to the COVID-19 vaccination effort.

Our work is not yet done. There are still 3.2 million Massachusetts residents eligible for either their first or second booster dose who have not yet received it.

As a trusted source of medical advice and support for your patients, your ongoing, active participation in the COVID-19 vaccine primary series and booster dose process is essential. As you know, staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations is the most effective way to lower the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against emerging variants. While vaccine protection decreases over time, boosters restimulate the immune system and increase vaccine efficacy again.

The Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers have joined together to remind you of our recommendations for administering COVID-19 vaccine boosters and patient eligibility.

We recommend that Providers:

1. Proactively reach out to all patients who qualify for booster doses. This includes all patients 5 and older that have received their primary series.

- Patients 5 and older who completed their primary series at least 5 months ago (2 months for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine) are eligible for a booster dose.
- Patients 50 and older, or 12 and older with underlying medical conditions, are eligible for a second booster dose at least 4 months after their first booster dose.

2. Encourage patients to receive the booster dose they are eligible for it as soon as they become eligible. Patients can use the [CDC's COVID-19 booster tool](#) to learn if they are up to date or due for a booster.

3. Use flu vaccine reminders to educate and encourage patients to receive COVID-19 boosters. Please note, COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered with the flu vaccine in the same visit.

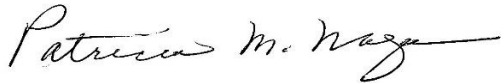
4. Assist any patients who request a booster and meet the criteria above. Please note, [Vaxfinder](#) is a useful tool for locating vaccine.

In addition to providing boosters, providers should take every opportunity to vaccinate anyone who has not yet received any COVID-19 vaccine by offering vaccination during routine or non-routine visits to medical offices, health centers, pharmacies, and hospitals.

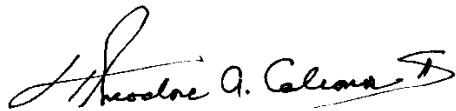
Thank you for your continued partnership and the critical role you play in keeping Massachusetts residents healthy and safe.



Margret Cooke, Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health



Patricia M. Noga, Vice President, Clinical Affairs
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association



Theodore A. Calianos, President
Massachusetts Medical Society



Michael Curry, President & CEO
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers