

Governor Baker's COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Phase 1 & 2 Eligibility Status

Phase	Group	Status
Phase 1	All phase 1 priority groups	Now eligible ✓
Phase 2	1 Individuals age 75+	Now eligible ✓
	2 Individuals 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions	Now eligible ✓
	3 Early education and K-12 workers, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers	Not yet eligible
	4 Individuals with 1 certain medical condition	Not yet eligible

**NOT
YET**

NEW GROUPS ADDED TO GET VACCINE

- People age 65+
- Residents and staff in — public/private low income/affordable senior housing (read more [here](#)).
- People with **2+ certain medical conditions** (must have **2** or more):
 - Cancer
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - Down Syndrome
 - Heart conditions (heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies)
 - “Immunocompromised” state (**weakened immune system**) from solid organ transplant
 - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m2 or higher)
 - Calculate your BMI here: [Adult BMI Calculator](#) (CDC)
 - Pregnancy
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Smoking
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
 - Asthma (moderate-to-severe)



Not sure if you should get the vaccine? **Ask your doctor!**

Learn more about Phase 2 eligible conditions [here](#).

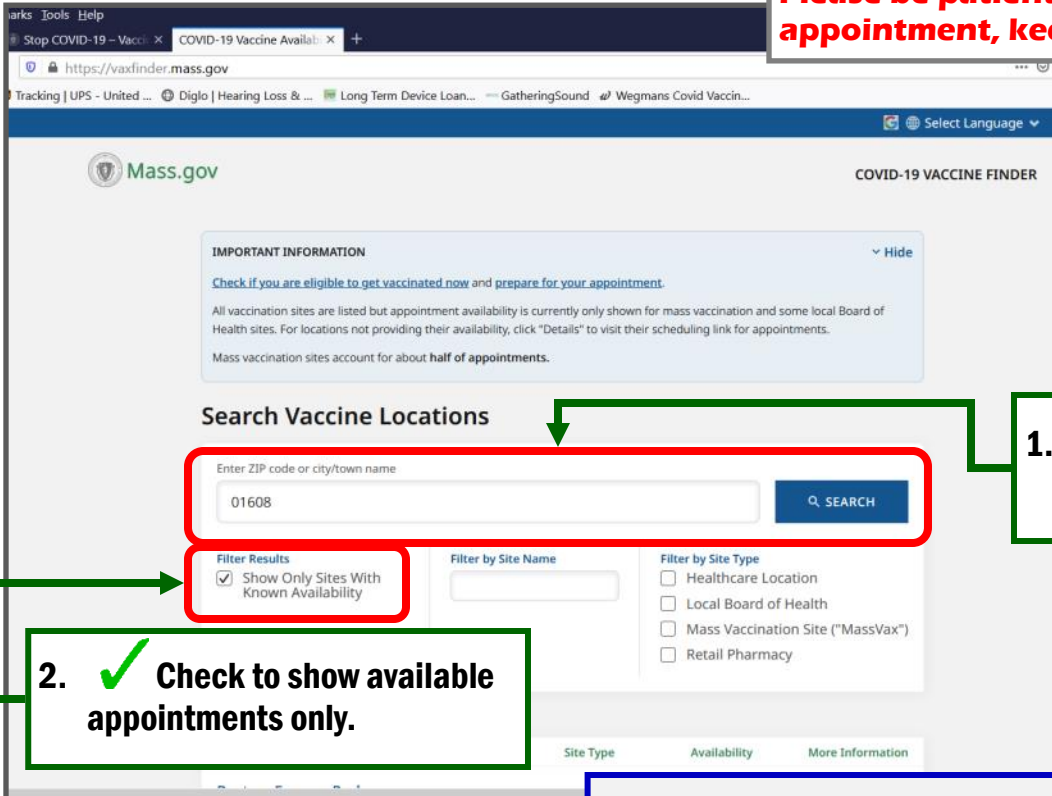
CENTER FOR LIVING & WORKING, INC.

WHAT'S UP?

How Do I Make an Appointment?

- **Online:** <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>
- **Call:** 2-1-1

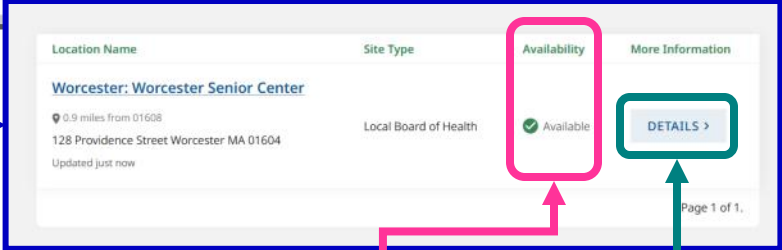
NOTE: Appointments fill up FAST. Please be patient. If you don't get an appointment, keep trying!



1. Enter your Zip Code or City/Town Name

2. ✓ Check to show available appointments only.

3. A list of places will show up.



4. Available appointments?

5. Details could be:

- “Screening”/ questions to see if you can get vaccinated now.
- Parking information.
- What to do when you arrive.
- Pick a specific date and time to get vaccinated.

Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Call Center
Available starting Friday February 5th, 2021

For assistance with setting up vaccination appointments **ONLY** for those 75 & older who are unable to access or use the website.

- ★ Access by calling 211.
- ★ Open Monday - Friday from 8:30am-5pm.
- ★ English, Spanish, & other languages available.
- ★ Expect long waits.
- ★ If no appointments available you can be put on callback list.

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Governor's Updates



Get the latest information:

- Watch here: <https://www.mass.gov/governor-updates>
- Press Releases: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/press-releases-related-to-covid-19>

Get tested MA!



You can still get tested!

- Learn about COVID-19 testing: www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing
- Find a testing place: www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test

Are you going with a person age 75+ to get vaccinated? *You can get vaccinated too!*

If you bring someone age 75 or older—to one of the **mass vaccination sites (below)** —you can get a vaccine too.

- You and the 75+ year old must both have appointments the same day.
- You must both go **together**.
- Limited to — **one** companion.
- Both people must “attest” (confirm) that they are bringing the 75+ year old to the appointment.



ONLY AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCATIONS:

- Gillette Stadium
- Fenway Park
- DoubleTree - Danvers
- Eastgate - Springfield

Learn more about the program here:

www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-people-ages-75-and-older

NOTE: See separate *SE Resources* page for more information or contact your Skills Trainer with questions.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Your need-to-know details about the COVID-19 Vaccine*



It is **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.

By prioritizing resources and efforts, the vaccines were developed quickly and never at the expense of safety. For more on vaccine safety visit mass.gov/COVIDVaccineSafety



It is **FREE**

The COVID-19 vaccine is being administered free of charge to all individuals by the federal government.

Insurance information may be asked for by those administering the vaccine in order to bill-back to insurance. However, you will not be charged. If you do not have insurance, you are still eligible to receive the vaccine free of charge.



You need **TWO** doses to be **FULLY** vaccinated

Until you are fully vaccinated, you can still contract and spread COVID-19.

Not everyone will be vaccinated when you are. And while we know it dramatically reduces severe cases and symptoms, we are still learning about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions. Continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, keep distance and avoid groups between doses and even after your second dose.



Your two doses should be administered at the **SAME SITE**

You should receive your second dose of the same vaccine at the same site as your first.

- **Pfizer vaccine:** at least **21 days** following first dose
- **Moderna vaccine:** at least **28 days** following first dose

Before leaving your first dose appointment, schedule or confirm how to setup your next appointment.



Find out when you can get vaccinated at mass.gov/covidvaccinephases

Massachusetts developed a phased COVID-19 vaccine distribution timeline focused on equity and safety.

The timeline focuses on maintaining health care system capacity, addressing inequities in health care access and the COVID-19 burden, and protecting vulnerable populations. Each phase has priority groups within them. For regularly updated priority groups and eligible jobs and medical conditions, visit

mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases

* This information was last updated 2/09/2021 and applies to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, phases, and more visit mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases



Transportation to Vaccine Appointments

MassHealth is providing **free** transportation for vaccine appointments to people with **any type of MassHealth plan**.

Call **MassHealth Customer Service Center** at: **800-841-2900** TTY: **800-497-4648**

- Choose “transportation to a vaccine appointment”.
- A *MassHealth* representative will help you set up transportation.



Contact your health plan or PACE provider if you have: Senior Care Options, One Care plan, or are in a *Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)*

Click here for more information and *Frequently Asked Questions*:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/transportation-to-covid-19-vaccine-appointments-for-masshealth-members-and-health-safety-net-o>

COVID-19 Survey Results

Click here to read the results:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-community-impact-survey>



Vaccine Equity for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind People

Want to have an ASL interpreter when it’s your turn to be vaccinated?

How can I advocate for vaccinations with interpreter access in my area?

Call the *Attorney General’s office*: **617-727-2200**



Ask what they are doing to organize vaccines for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community.

Or email: Bethany Brown, *AG’s office ADA Coordinator*.

Email: Bethany.Brown@state.ma.us. [SUBJECT: Deaf access and vaccinations]



DHILS Deaf Skills Trainer (P/T 20 hours)

Provide Independent Living skills training, peer counseling, resources and advocacy to Deaf consumers.



- Part-time – 20 hours.
- Fluent in ASL (required).

See the full job description and requirements [here](#).

Questions? Contact Deb Olson at: dolson@centerlw.org

Zoom Guide

CLW DHILS made a guide for using Zoom. Step-by-step instructions and pictures show how to:

- Download the Zoom app
- Join/Leave a meeting
- Gallery View vs. Speaker View
- Pin a screen



WANT A COPY? Contact Denise Paro at: dparo@centerlw.org or 508-556-1600 (VP)

NOTE: let us know which one(s) you want! (Computer/Cell Phone/iPad)

2021 Pride Parade & Festival—Postponed



The *Pride Parade and Festival* will not be held June because of the continued COVID-19 crisis. **Virtual events will be announced—check their [Facebook page](#) for the latest information!**

Read more [here](#).

Protection from Medical Discrimination

A new legislative session is starting. *Disability Policy Consortium* (DPC) is supporting bills to *protect the rights of people with disabilities*.

What does this mean? Some people believe it isn't worthwhile or cost-effective to treat people with disabilities. This bill says people with disabilities deserve the *same rights and access to good healthcare as others*. [Related [article](#)].

How can I support this bill? *Contact your Representatives and Senators*, and ask them to **support** and/or **co-sponsor** this bill.

Find your legislators: malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator

Read about the bills: [House](#) Bill; [Senate](#) Bill



COVID-19 Resources/Data

To save space in the newsletter, you can find all COVID-19 information (maps, data, orders, information, etc.) on these websites listed below. **We will add more sites as needed.**

Vaccine Information	https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine
Vaccine Appointments	https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/
US COVID-19 Cases and Deaths <i>by State</i>	https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days
COVID-19 Variant in the US	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html
MA COVID-19 town-by-town map	https://www.wcvb.com/article/massachusetts-coronavirus-covid-19-community-spread-risk-map-color-coded/33646711
MA Travel Order	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states
MA Response Reporting	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting
MA Stop the Spread	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread ASL Version: https://www.facebook.com/massgov/videos/434334580929189/
Re-Opening MA	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information#reopening-massachusetts-
Governor Press Conferences	https://www.mass.gov/governor-updates

Questions about this Newsletter?

Need a website address from your printed newsletter? Contact your Skills Trainer!

Joan Philip	<i>DHILS Director</i>	508-762-1165 (VP)
VACANT	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer</i>	508-762-1350 (VP)
Denise Paro	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	508-556-1600 (VP)
Ellen Perkins	<i>Hard of Hearing Skills Trainer</i>	508-502-7576 (Voice); 508-762-1354 (VP)
Joy Spurlin	<i>Assistant Manager/Skills Trainer</i>	508-762-1166 (VP)
Justina Bailey	<i>Deaf Skills Trainer</i>	508-762-1021 (VP)
Kim White	<i>Staff Interpreter</i>	508-755-1042 x5042; 508-283-1036 (VP)

Contact Us!

Center for Living & Working, Inc.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Independent Living Services Department

Videophone: 508-762-1164

Voice/TTY: 508-755-1003

www.CenterLW.org



Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLivingAndWorking>

Black History Month

American Society for Deaf Children has ASL resources for **Black History Month**, including songs, stories and signs.

The link is: <https://deafchildren.org/2021/02/asl-resources-black-history-month/>



MassHire Central Career Centers— Virtual Job Fair

Virtual Job Fair for *many different types of businesses*.

Free for all job seekers and employers.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The Tuesday *before* the event.

Contact your *MassHire Central Career Center* here: <https://masshirecentralcc.com/>

DATE: Last Thursday of Every Month!
TIME: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
ONLINE - Premier Virtual



WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY	Holds pickup	Computer appointments	Print/fax/copy appointments
Main Library 508-799-1655	✓	✓	✓
Frances Perkins Branch 508-799-1687	✓	✓	✓
Great Brook Valley Branch 508-799-1729	✓	✓	✓
Burncoat Branch 508-799-8328	✓	✓	✓
Goddard Branch 508-799-8330	✓	✓	✓
Roosevelt Branch 508-799-8327	✓	✓	✓
Tatnuck Magnet Branch 508-799-8329	✓	✓	✓

2-3 days a week only

Reopened services as of 2/1/21 - check mywpl.org for hours and updates



- Open for **LIMITED SERVICES** [limited services].
- **Services include:** holds pickup, appointments for computer use, printing, copying, and faxing.
- Click [here](#) to find out more about your location.
- Click [here](#) for online **Events**.

Don't live in Worcester?
 Check out **YOUR** local library website!

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS



February – June 2021
First Wednesday of the month
 1:00 – 2:30 PM



Healthy Relationship Support Group on Zoom
March 3: COVID impact on DV
April 7: Tech Safety
May 5: Safety Planning
June 9: How to be an Ally/Self-care

RSVP REQUIRED

Contact Denise Paro at:
 508-508-556-1600 or
DParo@CenterLW.org

Watch a VLOG here: <https://youtu.be/H8qhsxZoKZk>

DHILS Consumer Deaf Zoom Chat
Second Tuesday of the month!
 1:00 – 2:00 PM



JOIN US!

March 9, 2021
April 13, 2021
May 11, 2021
June 8, 2021

RSVP TO Denise Paro at:

508-508-556-1600 or
DParo@CenterLW.org

Watch a VLOG here:
<https://youtu.be/OBdXcnYlhBo>

February 27, 2021
 4:00 PM

All Things Cochlear A Zoom Meeting on Cochlear Implants.
Hosted by HLAA Boston
 Captions will be provided on the Zoom site.
 Email to register: lizo87@aol.com

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
First and third Wednesday of the month
 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Housing Workshop
Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)'s workshop will teach you about affordable housing options in your area and how to apply.
Register [here](#).



March 31, 2021
 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Independent Living Education Day 2021: a Virtual Event
 More information coming soon! *Updates can be found [here](#).*
 Questions? Contact: sadie@masilc.org

April 9 – 10, 2021



2021 DEN Conference: Innovate & Adapt
Deaf Entrepreneurship Network

On Zoom

Registration: www.goden.org/2021virtualden

July 19-30, 2021



2021 Annual Conference on Independent Living
 Keep checking for updates!

<https://ncil.org/2021-annual-conference-on-independent-living/>

Deaf Perspectives on Treatment for Alcohol Use & Stress

University of Rochester researchers are studying Deaf perspectives on alcohol use, stress, and the decision to seek treatment. Individual interviews will be conducted on Zoom.



**Volunteers
will be paid
\$40**

You may qualify for an interview if:

- ✓ You frequently drink alcohol
- ✓ You are experiencing stress
- ✓ Are Deaf or hard-of-hearing
- ✓ ASL is your preferred language
- ✓ Are over 18 years old

To Learn more contact

Aileen Aldalur, PhD
Postdoctoral Associate
University of Rochester
Medical Center

Email:
Aileen_Aldalur@URMC.Rochester.edu

Video Phone:
(585) 371-6125

Parent/Kids Events

February 27th
10:00 AM



Shared Reading Saturday—“The Kissing Hand”
[Facebook](#) Live or [YouTube](#) Live:

Starting in March!



ASL It! Classes
Offered by the DHHP outreach program
The class is 1 hour on Zoom.
Families of all ages are welcome!
Contact Katie at: katie.mccarthy@childrens.harvard.edu

March 2, 2021
6:00 – 8:00 PM

General Foster Care Virtual Information Session
Virtual: Webex
Please RSVP to Katherine Keefe at: Katherine.A.Keefe@Mass.Gov

March 5th



National Deaf Youth Day
[Held annually on March 6th, this year **virtual events** will be on March 5th.]
Learn more and register [here](#).

March 6, 2021
9:00 – 11:00 AM

Fostering Children with Medical Needs Virtual Information Session
Virtual: Webex
Please RSVP to Katherine Keefe at: Katherine.A.Keefe@Mass.Gov

Second Tuesday of the month
1:00 – 2:00 PM



Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids
Learn more about MHAP for Kids [here](#).
March 9: Understanding DDS & DMH
April 13: Delinquency Proceedings/CRA Law
May 11: CGP Proceedings/CRA Law
June 8: School Discipline Rights
Register by sending an email to Michaela: mmacquarrie@hla-inc.org

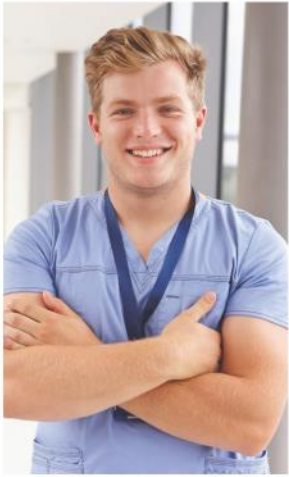
March 10th
4:30 – 5:30 PM



Is your child in 9th-10th grade? High School Meet-up.
Offered by the DHHP outreach program
Contact Katie at: katie.mccarthy@childrens.harvard.edu



Worcester Family Partnership
Click [here](#) to see the *February* calendar.
Register for ALL events [here](#).



Now enrolling remote and on-site!

Career Pathways Program

for eligible 16 - 24 year olds

- ✓ HiSET Preparation
- ✓ Smaller Classrooms Following all COVID-19 Guidelines
- ✓ Comprehensive Remote Learning Support
- ✓ College Exploration & Financial Aid Assistance
- ✓ Work Readiness and Financial Literacy Workshops
- ✓ Paid Work Experiences related to your Career Interest
- ✓ Free Short Term Certificate Trainings

Four convenient locations:

Milford

3 Exchange Street
Milford, MA 01757
508-473-2178

Worcester

81 Plantation Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-552-7303

Webster

121 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570
508-461-9503

Whitinsville

68-72 Church Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588
508-266-2125

For more information contact:

Kate Pesa

Program Director

508-552-7300

This project is funded by a grant from the US Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, and provided locally through MassHire Central Region Workforce Board.





Career Pathways Program



Nurse Assistant Training

- 120 Hours of class and Clinical Training
- Certificate of completion
- Paid Work Experience
- CNA State Exam preparation class
- Job Placement Assistance
- **FREE!**



For More Information Contact:

Webster Classroom, Education Specialist
508-461-9503

Worcester Classroom, Education Specialist
508-552-7303



Interested candidates must meet the following qualifications:

- Between the ages of 18-24
- Completed high school or High School Equivalency
- Proof of eligible income/benefits
- Pass placement test
- Reliable Transportation

This project is funded by a grant from the US Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, and provided locally through the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board.

March Middle School Madness!!

Is your D/HH child moving up from elementary to middle school? Join us for several or all workshops throughout the month of March!

Circle your calendar: Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m.

Registration is required. E-mail Susan Gibbons at susan.gibbons@childrens.harvard.edu if you plan to attend.

Zoom captioning will be provided. Let us know in advance if ASL interpretation is needed.

February 24

Kickoff: Tips for the Transition

Presenter: Susan Gibbons, AuD, CCC-A, SLP

Audiologist / Educational Audiologist
Boston Children's Hospital

March 3

**Panel Discussion:
Teachers of the Deaf**

Presenters: Kathy Nye, TOD
Brockton Public Schools

Nancy Siska, MA, MS, CCC-SLP
Educational Consultant
Public School Partnerships
The Learning Center for the Deaf

Elissa Sanford, MEd
Assistant Director and Teacher of the Deaf
Public School Partnerships
The Learning Center for the Deaf

March 10

Panel Discussion: Parents

March 17

Panel Discussion: Students

March 24

Panel Discussion: Psychologists

Presenters:

Matthew Fasano-McCarron, PsyD
Pediatric Neuropsychologist
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program
Boston Children's Hospital

Yoav Shimoni, PsyD
Post-Doctorate Fellow
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program
Boston Children's Hospital

Zoom meeting information:

<https://bostonchildrens.zoom.us/j/98145248216>

Password: 972009

Meeting ID: 981 4524 8216

Or dial in from your telephone:

(646) 558-8656 (Primary)

(408) 638-0968 (if unable to dial into the primary number)

Telephone password: 972009



Boston Children's Hospital
Otolaryngology and
Communication Enhancement

Family Education and Advocacy Team

Transitions • Workshops • Connections ... beyond the clinic
Funded by the Decibels Foundation and The Caroline Bass Fund

