

January 29, 2021:

3 cases in isolation

5 contacts in quarantine

As always, there's good news and bad news.

The good news is that on February 1, Massachusetts moves into Phase II of the vaccination plan. Individuals 75 and over are the first priority group in Phase II, and registration is open now at some sites. During February, more vaccination sites will be opened throughout the Commonwealth, ramping up the capacity to administer the vaccine.

The bad news is that the Commonwealth doesn't currently have that much vaccine to administer as supplies are limited. In mid-February, Massachusetts is expected to have the capacity to administer 305,000 vaccinations in a week – but we expect to receive only about 189,000 doses in that week.

We are told that certain large medical practices, including Cooley Dickinson and Valley Medical Group, will inform their eligible patients when they may make an appointment for vaccination at those practices. If you are a patient at such a practice, and check with your provider, you need only wait.

For others, to get an appointment at a pharmacy or a mass vaccination site could take several weeks. Best to get started as soon as you are eligible. You need to find a [vaccination site](#) using this frequently updated interactive map, and follow the instructions at your chosen site to make an appointment. In addition to things that are already in your wallet, like ID and insurance cards, you will need to fill out an Attestation *\*add a link to this\** form stating that you are eligible for vaccination. (Insurance is not required, but bring cards if you have them. Vaccination is free of charge.)

What about people who aren't tech savvy or don't choose to use a computer? If you have a friend, a neighbor, or a family member over 75 who may need help with this, please reach out to them. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs is working on setting up a phone line for making appointments, but it's not up yet. We'll keep you posted on that, and on what we can learn about transportation for those who need it.

The Shutesbury Board of Health