

SUMMARY:

1. **New Cases:** DPH new cases reported yesterday:

Barnstable County: 27 new cases

Martha's Vineyard:

1 new case.

Nantucket:

2 new cases.

2. Hospitalizations and Fatalities: 3-day avg.hospitalizations continues to fall, and is now in the low-30s (was in the mid-60s three weeks ago). ICU patient numbers have fallen as well; 9 patients were in the ICUs last night. There were 3 COVID fatalities reported yesterday.

3. Schools and Childcare Centers: Due to the mildness of the flu season the DPH has **removed the requirement** that all school children receive a flu vaccination on or before 2/28/21. **School districts remain in a hybrid learning model.**

4. Testing

5. Weekly Town Risk, and Statewide Cluster Analyses

6. Vaccination:

-Groups eligible for vaccination now are those in Phase 1, and Phase 2/Group 1 (persons aged 75+), depending upon availability of vaccine.

-Planning for 4-5 sub-regional mass vaccination sites on Cape Cod, to begin operation during Phase 2, is in place. The DPH is in discussions with the County Health Dept. to open is DPH-operated mass vaccination site on Cape Cod during Phase 2 of the vaccination plan.

-Phase 2 of the State Vaccination Plan began on February 1. Vaccination at local clinics during Phase 2 will be by appointment only and **appointments will be able to be scheduled once County and local health authorities can be sure of vaccine availability from the DPH.** The public will be given notice of planned vaccination clinics for eligible persons in Phase 2. As noted, Phase 2 Group 1 only includes persons age 75+.

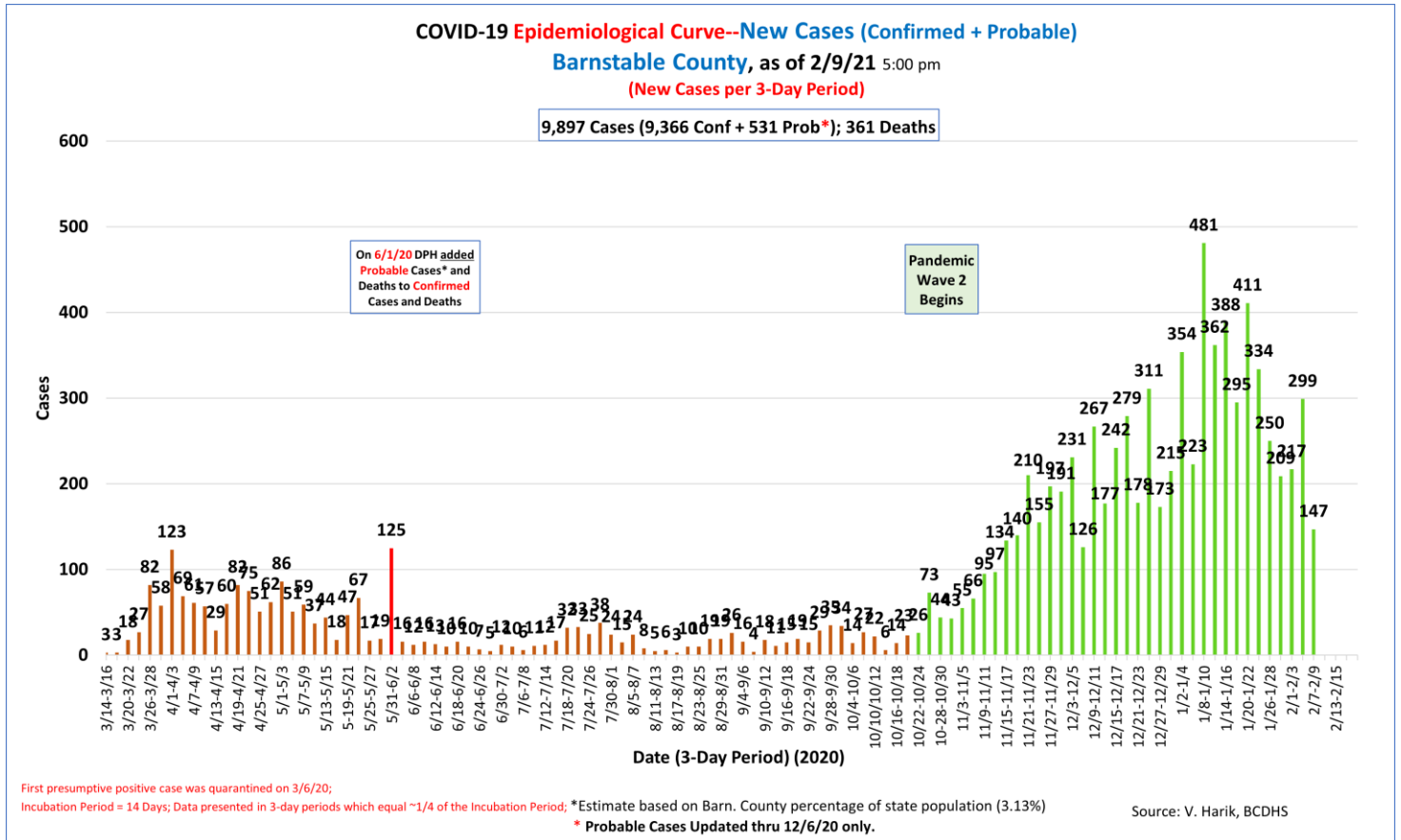
7. COVID Mutation and Changes in Transmissibility/Virulence/Other: **There are three variants of concern: B117 (UK), B1351 (S. Africa), and P1 (Brazil).** All three appear to be equally virulent but at least 50% more transmissible. Within two months of the B117 variant being identified in the UK (October) it became the dominant strain circulating there. The CDC is now posting surveillance information on the emergence of the B117 variant in the US: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>.

Existing vaccines may be less effective against these new strains. The degree to which this may be so is being investigated. **Moderna and Pfizer are working on a booster shot to counter these new strains.**

DETAIL:

1. New Cases

Daily new case numbers in Barnstable County remain high but in a downward trend following the post-Christmas/New Year's surge. **27** cases were reported yesterday. The 7-day average new cases per 100,000 (40) remains very similar to last week, with Barnstable County acquiring 80 to 90 cases per day over the past week.



Nantucket's 7-day average cases per 100,000 population continues to trend lower; Nantucket is picking up approximately 4 new cases per day. **2** cases were reported yesterday.

Martha's Vineyard's 7-day average cases per 100,000 population is also trending lower. Dukes County is now picking up approximately 3 new cases per day. **1** case were reported yesterday.

Trailing 14-Day Testing and Cases by County:



Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA by County, January 1, 2020 – February 2, 2021

County	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days)	Relative Change in Case Counts ¹	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)	Change in Percent Positivity ²
Barnstable County	8920	1204	39.7	Lower	256575	24494	1339	5.47%	Lower
Berkshire County	4569	491	27.7	Lower	233263	20910	569	2.72%	Lower
Bristol County	51164	5256	65.7	Lower	852576	78628	6036	7.68%	Lower
Dukes and Nantucket Counties	1881	195	48.3	Lower	55962	4117	205	4.98%	Lower
Essex County	78059	5902	52.9	Lower	1449370	125470	7429	5.92%	Lower
Franklin County	1797	174	17.5	Lower	122499	13620	197	1.45%	Lower
Hampden County	37731	4083	61.9	Lower	714403	68682	5082	7.40%	Lower
Hampshire County	5791	653	28.4	Lower	433597	41580	775	1.86%	Lower
Middlesex County	103163	8776	38.5	Lower	3521406	329591	10361	3.14%	Lower
Norfolk County	41091	5052	50.5	Lower	1239510	122947	5727	4.66%	Lower
Plymouth County	36608	4001	54.2	Lower	704777	69533	4550	6.54%	Lower
Suffolk County	72287	6025	53.2	Lower	2616590	256994	7273	2.83%	Lower
Worcester County	60055	5734	48.8	Lower	1440171	125499	6490	5.17%	Lower
Unknown ³	1448	113	*	*	233459	17313	116	*	*
State	504564	47659	48.9	Lower	13874158	1299378	56149	4.32%	Lower

Data are current as of 11:59pm on 02/02/2021; ¹Number of new cases occurring over the current two-week period (1/17/2021 – 01/30/2021) compared to the previous two-week period (1/10/2021 – 01/23/2021). **Higher**=number of new cases in the current two-week period higher than the number of new cases during the last two-week period. **Lower**=number of new cases in the current two-week period lower than number of new cases during the last two-week period. **No change**=number of new cases in current two-week period is equal to the number of new cases during the last two-week period. ²Change in percent positivity compared to the previous week's (1/27/2021) report. **No Change**= <0.10% difference in the percent positivity. ³Address information for these cases is currently being obtained. DPH calculates rates per 100,000 population using denominators estimated by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute using a modified Hamilton-Perry model (Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020, report, Oct 2016.) **Please note:** Data for these tables are based on information available in the DPH surveillance database at a single point in time. Case counts for specific cities and towns change throughout the day as data cleaning occurs (removal of duplicate reports within the system) and new demographic information (assigning cases to their city or town of residence) is obtained.

2. Hospitalizations and Fatalities

Hospitalizations and acuity of illness have increased very significantly since the second week of November and remain elevated. Cape Cod Hospital and Falmouth Hospital have **suspended visitation** of inpatients except under very limited circumstances (end-of-life, etc.) and have **stopped non-essential surgeries and other elective procedures**.

Since DPH reporting of hospitalizations has a 2-day lag Tina Shaw of CCHC is providing me with more recent information (thank you Tina). Yesterday evening CCHC reported that there were **34 COVID patients in hospital**, **9** of which were in the **ICU**.

Fatalities: **6** additional fatalities were reported over the weekend. The total is now **354**.

Barnstable County COVID-Related Hospital & ICU Beds Occupied, with Cases & Deaths

Source: V. Harik, Barn. County Dept of Human Services; Tabulation of MA DPH Data

WEEKLY: (On Tuesdays)		Not Cumulative		Cumulative		3-Day Avg. of Persons in Hosp. (Med/Surg + ICU)	ICU Percent of Beds Occupied
Date Reported by DPH	Hospital	Hospital Beds Occupied	ICU Beds Occupied	Barnstable County Cases	Barnstable County Deaths		
4/22/2020	Cape Cod Hospital	11	5				
(Wave 1 Peak-- Cases in Hospital)	Falmouth Hospital	13	7				
		24	12	678	27	41.0	33%
4/28/2020	Cape Cod Hospital	18	5				
(Wave 1 Peak-- Cases in ICU)	Falmouth Hospital	11	14				
		29	19	820	39	27.7	40%
12/22/2020	Cape Cod Hospital	22	2				
	Falmouth Hospital	8	1				
		30	3	4,644	221	36.0	9%
12/29/2020	Cape Cod Hospital	41	5				
	Falmouth Hospital	11	2				
		52	7	5,181	229	58.3	12%
1/5/2021	Cape Cod Hospital	23	7				
	Falmouth Hospital	19	3				
		42	10	5,818	256	51.0	19%
1/12/2021	Cape Cod Hospital	26	14				
	Falmouth Hospital	9	4				
		35	18	6,685	277	49.0	34%
1/19/2021	Cape Cod Hospital	28	13				
(Wave 2 Peak-- Cases in Hospital)	Falmouth Hospital	10	5				
		38	18	7,499	303	61.0	32%
1/26/2021	Cape Cod Hospital	22	13				
	Falmouth Hospital	10	5				
		32	18	8,303	323	46.7	36%
2/2/2021	Cape Cod Hospital	10	13				
(Wave 2 Peak-- Cases in ICU)	Falmouth Hospital	5	6				
		15	19	8,770	342	36.3	56%
Hospitalizations, Last Report:		Not Cumulative		Cumulative		3-Day Avg. of Persons in Hosp. (Med/Surg + ICU)	ICU Percent of Beds Occupied
		Hospital Beds Occupied (Last Report)	ICU Beds Occupied (Last Report)	Barnstable County Cases (Confirmed)	Barnstable County Deaths		
2/9/2021	Cape Cod Hospital	20	7				
	Falmouth Hospital	5	2				
		25	9	9,366	361	31.7	26%

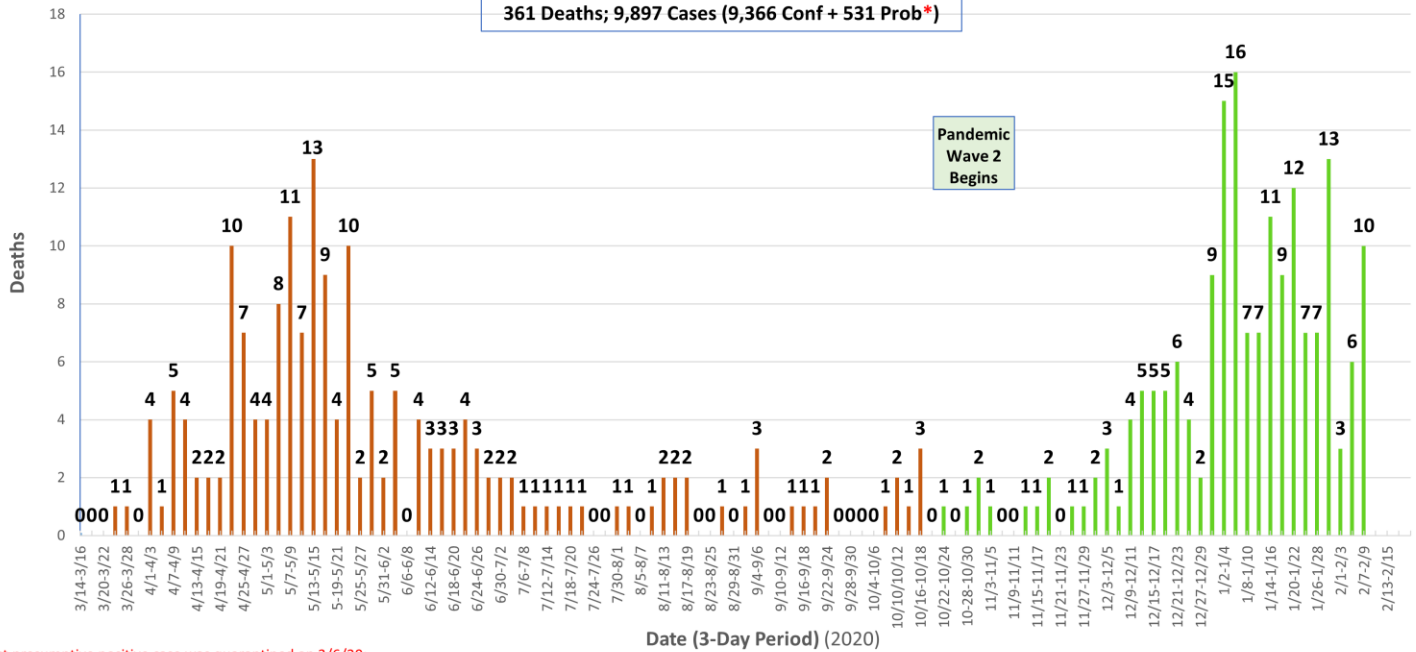
COVID-19 Epidemiological Curve--New Deaths (Confirmed + Probable)

Barnstable County, as of 2/9/21 5:00 pm

(New Deaths per 3-Day Period)

361 Deaths; 9,897 Cases (9,366 Conf + 531 Prob*)

Pandemic Wave 2 Begins



First presumptive positive case was quarantined on 3/6/20;

Incubation Period = 14 Days; Data presented in 3-day periods which equal ~1/4 of the Incubation Period

* Probable Cases Updated thru 12/6/20 only.

Source: V. Harik, BCDHS; Using data provided by the MA Department of Public Health

Recent data on COVID fatalities in Barnstable County suggest that residents of **Long Term Care/Skilled Nursing Facilities/Rest Homes** represent over 50% of all fatalities (139 of 256 fatalities, as of 1/5/21). This is a lower percentage than that seen during phase 1 of the pandemic last spring (over 65%).

3. Schools and Childcare Centers

School districts are staying vigilant and reacting well to new cases. Most school districts on the Cape and Islands are in a hybrid learning status now.

DESE and the DPH (memo of 1/8/21) announced that they are seeking to introduce COVID-19 screening testing using a pooled strategy in the school setting. Schools may elect to participate by responding to a survey that DESE/DPH have posted. Further information will be forthcoming.

~~For the 2020-2021 school year the DPH has mandated that all school children be vaccinated for seasonal influenza. This week the DPH extended the deadline for doing so from 12/31/20 to 2/28/21. This mandate has been canceled by the DPH.~~

During Phase 2 of the state vaccination rollout **childcare center** staff are to be vaccinated alongside school staff.

4. Testing

Additional testing locations in Barnstable County for both symptomatic and asymptomatic persons remain open in **Falmouth** at the Fairgrounds and in **Hyannis** at Cape Cod HealthCare (the Melody Tent site has been given over to vaccination clinics). Daily testing capacity is 50 at the Falmouth site and 350 at the Hyannis site. Neither site is open daily and persons must call ahead for an appointment. Details: <https://www.capecodhealth.org/medical-services/infectious-disease/coronavirus/covid-19-testing-process/>.

In late December additional testing by **Outer Cape Community Health Services** began and continues at its 3 locations in **Wellfleet, Harwich Port, and Provincetown** (<https://outercapex.org/2020/12/23/outer-cape-health-services-to-offer-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-beginning-december-23/>). These sites may not open be daily and persons must call ahead for an appointment.

Eligibility criteria for the testing include residency in Barnstable County. Testing is done by appointment only. Tests cost \$75, \$110 for travel-related tests, and no one will be turned away if unable to pay for a test.

DPH-mandated **routine testing** in skilled nursing facilities/long term care settings (SNF/LTC) continues. This provides critical surveillance and allows these facilities to stay ahead of asymptomatic spread amongst staff and residents. Routine testing in SNF/LTC settings is conducted weekly for staff.

In addition, the State's **BinaxNOW rapid testing program** (available to **schools**) has been extended to visitors of **nursing homes** and rest home residents (LTC settings) to allow visitation of residents while limiting the risk of infection from visitors. DPH has published guidance on this. The program has also been extended to **childcare centers and homeless shelters** and management of these facilities may apply to the EEC and DPH for testing kits.

5. Weekly Town Risk and Statewide Cluster Analyses

MA DPH Data Dashboard, WEEKLY REPORT of 2/4/21 (for the Period 1/17/20 to 1/30/21)										
City/Town	Population	(March 2020 to Present) Total Case Count	Case Count Last 14 Days	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100K	Relative Change in Case Count	Total Tests	Total Tests Last 14 Days	Positive Tests Last 14 Days	Percent Positivity Last 14 Days	Change in Percent Positivity
Barnstable	44,773	2,647	283	45.1	Lower	52,146	4,866	316	6.49%	Lower
Bourne	21,026	884	102	34.7	Lower	28,561	2,919	119	4.08%	Lower
Brewster	9,926	337	77	55.4	Higher	13,154	1,730	84	4.86%	Higher
Chatham	5,830	221	46	56.4	Lower	6,675	548	51	9.31%	Lower
Dennis	13,088	504	73	39.8	Lower	13,657	1,413	82	5.80%	No Change
Eastham	4,603	89	20	31.0	No Change	3,630	334	22	6.59%	Lower
Falmouth	31,190	1,081	133	30.5	Lower	44,559	3,682	150	4.07%	Lower
Harwich	12,589	512	60	34.0	Lower	13,795	1,266	69	5.45%	Lower
Mashpee	15,535	527	68	31.3	Lower	17,960	1,614	74	4.58%	Lower
Orleans	5,620	190	76	96.6	Higher	5,087	625	76	12.16%	Higher
Provincetown	2,583	59	<5	11.1	Lower	3,738	259	4	1.54%	Lower
Sandwich	21,078	783	115	39.0	Lower	21,284	1,868	133	7.12%	Lower
Truro	1,968	32	11	39.9	Higher	1,641	120	11	9.17%	Higher
Wellfleet	2,760	48	9	23.3	Higher	2,326	214	10	4.67%	Lower
Yarmouth	24,062	1,006	127	37.7	Lower	28,362	3,036	138	4.55%	Lower
Barnstable County	216,629	8,920	1,200	39.7	Lower	256,575	24,494	1,339	5.47%	Lower
Aquinnah	261	0	0	0	No Change	466	18	0	0%	No Change
Chilmark	759	12	0	0	No Change	3,074	161	0	0%	No Change
Edgartown	4,086	240	29	50.7	Lower	9,606	659	30	4.55%	Lower
Gosnold	45	5	0	0	No Change	120	3	0	0%	No Change
Oak Bluffs	5,209	208	38	52.1	Lower	6,518	476	43	9.03%	No Change
Tisbury	4,174	240	25	42.8	Lower	12,099	868	25	2.88%	Lower
West Tisbury	2,871	83	8	19.9	Lower	4,293	295	9	3.05%	Lower
Dukes County	17,404	793	101	41.0	Lower	36,176	2,480	107	4.31%	Lower
Nantucket	11,416	1,089	95	59.4	Lower	19,786	1,637	98	5.99%	Lower
Dukes and Nantucket Counties	28,820	1,881	195	56.3	Lower	55,962	4,117	205	4.98%	Lower
State	6,964,383	504,564	47,659	48.9	Lower	13,874,158	1,299,378	56,149	4.32%	Lower

Data Source: MA DPH, 2/4/21 Weekly COVID Report (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>); Analysis: V. Harik BCDHS.

Massachusetts COVID Testing Rates, As Applied to Barnstable County (Thru 1/30/21)

Sources: Census.gov; MA DPH Weekly COVID Report, 1/21/21. Analysis: V. Harik, BCDHS

	MA	Barnstable County
Population Estimate (via DPH)	6,964,383	216,629
	Barnstable County % of MA Pop.	3.11%
	Barn. County % of Total MA Tests	1.85%
	Barn. County % of MA Tests, Past Two Weeks	1.89%
	Barn. County % of MA <u>Total</u> Confirmed Cases	1.77%
	Barn. County % of MA Confirmed Cases, Past Two Weeks	2.52%
	MA % Positive Tests Last 14 Days	4.32%
	Barnstable County % Positive Tests Last 14 Days	5.47%

Active COVID Clusters by Exposure Setting Type for the Period 1/3/20 to 1/30/21 (as of 2/4/21)Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>. Tabulation: V. Harik, Barnstable County DHS

Sorted by Number of Cases in New Cluster Settings

	Exposure Setting	New Clusters (Identified 1/3/21 – 1/30/21)			Ongoing Clusters Meeting Criteria for Closing)			Total		
		Clusters	Confirmed Cases	Close Contacts	Clusters	Confirmed Cases	Close Contacts	Clusters	Confirmed Cases	Close Contacts
1	Household	19,619	50,250	----	28,794	8,986	----	48,413	59,236	---
2	Long Term Care Facilities	63	590	---	275	2,612	---	338	3,202	---
3	Child Care	142	464	708	281	187	306	423	651	1014
4	24/7 Congregate Settings	38	206	33	83	123	33	121	329	66
5	Senior Living	27	180	25	141	486	119	168	666	144
6	Organized Athletics/Camps	38	133	263	33	26	80	71	159	343
7	K-12 Schools	26	117	192	44	64	55	70	181	247
8	Social Gatherings	17	108	38	54	71	62	71	179	100
9	Industrial Settings	14	102	63	58	109	37	72	211	100
10	Hospitals	13	89	46	55	167	71	68	256	117

6. Vaccination

Groups eligible for vaccination now are those in Phase 1, and Phase 2/Group 1 (persons aged 75+), depending upon availability of vaccine.

On February 1 persons in Phase 2/Group 1 (age 75+) became eligible to be vaccinated at locations which have the vaccine available. However, appointments may not be immediately available due to overwhelming demand and still-limited supply of vaccine from the manufacturers.

Childcare staff will be eligible for vaccination alongside school staff in Phase 2.

The State has contracted with **CVS and Walgreens** to arrange vaccination of **older adults in SNFs/congregate care**. **CVS, Walgreens, and Stop & Shop pharmacies** will also schedule vaccinations for the groups in Phase 2, again depending upon vaccine supply.

- Planning for 4-5 sub-regional mass vaccination sites on Cape Cod, to begin operation during Phase 2, is in place. The DPH is in discussions with the County Health Dept. to open is DPH-operated mass vaccination site on Cape Cod during Phase 2 of the vaccination plan.
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- Phase 2 of the State Vaccination Plan began on February 1. Vaccination at local clinics during Phase 2 will be by appointment only and **appointments for local vaccination clinics will be able to be scheduled once County and local health authorities can be sure of vaccine availability from the DPH**. The public will be given notice of planned vaccination clinics for eligible persons in Phase 2. As noted, Phase 2 Group 1 only includes persons age 75+.
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- **Plans for regional mass vaccination sites, to begin operation during Phase 2, are in place.**

Vaccination is available at several **State-run mass vaccination sites** around Massachusetts. The closest one to Cape Cod is at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. Appointments can be scheduled by visiting <https://www.cic-health.com/vaccines-location>, or calling 2-1-1 and following the prompts.

When can I get a **COVID-19** vaccine in MA?



PHASE ONE

In order of priority

- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- First responders (EMS, Fire, Police)
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care



PHASE TWO

In order of priority

- Individuals 75+
- Individuals 65+, Individuals with 2+ comorbidities (those that are at increased risk for severe illness)
- Early education and K-12 workers, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Individuals with one comorbidity



PHASE THREE

Vaccine available to general public

December - February

Estimated timeframes

February - April

April - June

Updated 1/25/2021

7. COVID Mutation and Changes in Transmissibility/Virulence/Other

The emergence of a variant of the COVID-19 virus in the UK, classified as **B.1.1.7**, was identified in October and publicized in early December. Reports hold that B117 is 50% - 70% more contagious than our predominant variant now circulating (D614G). **Within two months of the variant being identified in the UK (October) it became dominant strain circulating there.** B117 is spreading globally and has been detected in the US. **Additional variants of concern have emerged internationally: B1351 (South Africa) and Brazil (P1) which are also highly transmissible. Existing vaccine recipes may be less effective against these three new strains.**

Researchers are working to determine if B117 differs from D614G in terms of: **1.** How sick people become, **2.** If natural immunity is different following infection with D614G, and **3.** If immunity from vaccination differs since the vaccine was developed during the period that D614G has been predominant. **The existing vaccines may be less effective against the new strains. Moderna and Pfizer are working on a booster shot to counter these new strains.**

The CDC is now posting surveillance information on the emergence of the B117 variant in the US: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>.

According to an article by Andrew Joseph from StatNews, "Coronaviruses evolve more slowly than viruses like flu, but they do pick up mutations as they spread. **SARS-CoV-2 has been adding one or two changes a month to its RNA genome since it emerged late last year in China**, and different versions of the virus have been continuously circulating throughout the course of the pandemic. **But this variant (B.1.1.7 or VUI-202012/01) showed up with at least 17 mutations**, according to one genetic analysis."

(Source: https://www.statnews.com/2020/12/21/looming-questions-new-variant-coronavirus/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=1a74bda2ca-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-1a74bda2ca-150158417).

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