



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Memo

To: Naomi Carney, Chair -Appointment and Briefings Committee

From: Damon Chaplin, Director
Health Department

Subject: Coronavirus Vaccine Allocation

Date: March 17, 2021

Dear Councilor Carney,

I am writing in response to your request for a briefing on the City's ability to distribute the coronavirus vaccine to New Bedford residents. I apologize to you and your committee members for missing the Appointments and Briefings committee meeting this evening. I had an unscheduled family obligation which prevented me from attending your meeting and submitting my report to your committee. I know it is important for you and your committee to have this information at the outset of your meeting to help inform your decisions. I support the committee's initiatives and want to contribute to the council's success. Please accept this written report in lieu of our scheduled meeting and in preparation for any future conversations pertaining to COVID-19 vaccine distributions in the City of New Bedford.

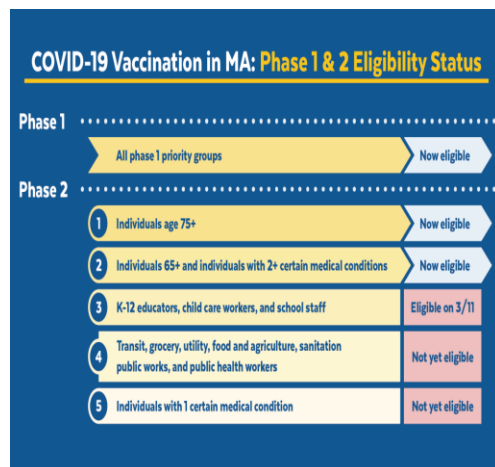
COVID-19 Overview

Since January 2021, COVID-19 case rates have improved significantly across the commonwealth. Key COVID-19 health indicators for New Bedford have dropped significantly over the last three months and just over 2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Massachusetts.

New Bedford Daily Cases as of 3/8/2021	
Total Number of deaths	333
Total Number of Positive cases	12,778
Color designation	Yellow
Average Incident Rate	23.6
Percent Positivity	3.7
Total Number of Tests Administered (14 days	9,385

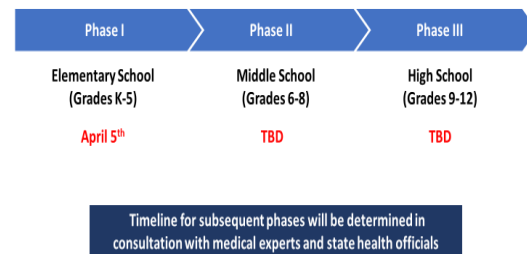
COVID-19 New Bedford Public Schools

As of March 11, 2021, K-12 educators, child-care workers and school staff were made eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. By April 5, 2021 all elementary school students will be expected to return to in-person learning. New Bedford Public Schools have already begun the process of transitioning to full in-person learning and will continue with a phased-in approach throughout the rest of the year.



Recommending Board provide the Commissioner with the authority to shift away from remote and hybrid models, and begin a fuller return to in-person learning

Return to full-time, in-person school five days per week would proceed in three phases



New Bedford COVID-19 Weekly Vaccine Allocations

Since January 4, 2021, the New Bedford Health Department has been receiving weekly allocation of COVID-19 vaccines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)--please see below. The vaccine allocation amounts for New Bedford have varied from week to week, depending on the target population, vaccine availability and eligible cohorts. Since January 11, 2021, The New Bedford Health Department has administered over 3500 COVID-19 vaccines to eligible residence and seniors living in New Bedford.

Vaccine	Date	Allocation
Moderna First Dose	01.04.21	200
Moderna First Dose	1.11.21	300
Moderna Order	01.15.21	200
Moderna 1st Dose	01.22.21	300
Moderna 2nd Dose	01.25.21	200
Moderna	01.29.21	400
Moderna	02.05.21	400
Moderna	02.08.21	300
Moderna	2.19.21	300
Moderna	3.1.21	300
Moderna	3.8.21	600
Total		3500

Vaccine Equity Initiative:

The MDPH has recently designated 20 cities and towns as health equity communities, and New Bedford is among those listed. The Baker-Polito Administration launched this outreach initiative in the 20 cities and towns (Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, Randolph, Revere, Springfield and Worcester) most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This initiative was created to support enhanced awareness, create equitable distribution of vaccines and work with vaccine equity communities to provide additional resources. One of the resources made available through this equity initiative was the capped allocation of vaccines for equity communities. New Bedford is currently receiving a capped allocation of 600 doses per week.

COVID-19 vaccine outreach and education:

In addition, MDPH has also contracted with ASG/Health Care for All (HCFA) to provide COVID-19 education and outreach support to vaccine equity communities. More specifically, ASG and HCFA will work with DPH liaisons and community/municipal leadership to assess needs for hyper-local, population-specific communication and outreach, tailor messages and materials, assess where more resources are needed for community partners, and provide feedback to DPH to inform future public health decisions. A boots-on-the ground approach will include door-to-door canvassing in the 20 communities as well. We recently received an additional allotment of 200 vaccines dedicated to New Bedford residents living in low-income housing. The City of New Bedford should anticipate a significant increase in vaccine allocations as national supplies continue to increase.

COVID-19 In-Home Vaccine Program:

Lastly, The New Bedford Health Department recently partnered with the MDPH to implement an In-Home Vaccination program for individuals who would not be able to be vaccinated unless they receive the vaccine in their home. It does not include populations that are temporarily homebound and/or are able to leave the home with adequate assistance. The New Bedford Health Department will continue to advocate for more vaccines and increased autonomy within the vaccine distribution pipeline, to ensure equitable distribution of vaccine resources to its most vulnerable populations.

Massachusetts Provider Allocation

Weekly allocations are subject to change based on federal availability, demand from providers, and obligations to meet second doses. Providers have 10 days to use their doses. The federal government is providing inadequate supplies to meet the demand of our provider community or our residence. Therefore, the vaccine distribution process has been streamlined with first dose requests prioritized to:

COVID-19 Vaccine Provider week of 3/10/21	Allocation	% Allocation
Mass Vaccination sites	83000	33.20%
Hospital Providers	79000	31.60%
Regional Collaboratives	38000	15.20%
Community Health Center	25000	10.00%
Local Board of Health	25000	10.00%
Total	250000	100.00%

New Bedford COVID-19 Vaccine Data Report

The MDPH recently released their [weekly vaccine data report](#). This weekly data set includes information on individuals vaccinated for COVID-19 by city or town. The data set below includes age, race and ethnicity characteristics of vaccinated individuals in Greater New Bedford. Due to our limited supply of vaccines and large volume of seniors living in New Bedford, we have dedicated a majority of our vaccine resources towards inoculating our senior population. As a result, seniors over the age of 65 represent the cohort with the highest percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in New Bedford at 16.32 %. In addition, this number increases significantly to approximately 42%, when we include individual seniors who have either received at least one vaccine dose and/or have recently tested positive and recovered from COVID-19. However, this chart also shows significant disparities within our Hispanic/multi-race populations with a vaccination rate of only 1.26 percent according the MDPH weekly vaccine data report.

Vaccination as of 3/9/2021

City or Town	Tot. Pop.	Tot.Vacc.	% Fully Vaccinated	% Vacc. Target	Full Vacc. Target	C-19 Vaccines needed
Dartmouth	37,104	4,123	11%	80.00%	29,683.50	25,560.50
Fairhaven	16,013	*	*	80.00%	12,810.19	*
Fall River	89,317	6,362	7%	80.00%	71,453.70	65,091.70
Acushnet	10,449	*	*	80.00%	8,359.43	*
Freetown	9,049	*	*	80.00%	7,239.34	*
New Bedford	99,980	6,715	6.72%	80.00%	79,983.86	73,268.86
65 +	15,944	2602	16.32%	80.00%	12,755.20	10,153.20
Black	8,772	410	4.67%	80.00%	7,017.60	6,607.60
Hispanic	23,410	296	1.26%	80.00%	18,728.00	18,432.00
Multi	3,891	96	2.47%	80.00%	3,112.80	3,016.80
White	62,497	4378	7.01%	80.00%	49,997.60	45,619.60