

Dear Valued Patients,

Our practice received this information from the Department of Public Health:

"Thank you for your patience as the state contends with an extremely constrained vaccine supply from the federal government.

We know that both you and your patients are eager for information on when vaccine will be available and how to best access it. Currently, groups eligible for vaccination include individuals eligible in Phase 1 (this includes health care workers, home-based health care workers, first responders, staff and residents of congregate care settings, and staff and residents of long-term care facilities), individuals age 75 or older, and companions accompanying an individual age 75 or older to the Fenway, Gillette, Doubletree Danvers, or Eastfield Mall Springfield vaccination sites.

Effective tomorrow, February 18, 2021, the following individuals will be eligible to receive the vaccine, those age 65 or older, individuals living in low income or affordable senior housing and individuals aged 16 or older with two or more of the health conditions or factors that increase risk of severe illness from COVID-19 listed below:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant (NOTE: For this group, this does not include individuals who are immunocompromised due to other conditions, such as blood or bone marrow transplant or HIV)
- Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)."

Please **click here** for more information about COVID vaccinations in Massachusetts.

Stay well and be safe,

Dr. Glaser, Dr. Shea, Julie Coffey, NP, Jessica Lipsky, NP, Kaitlin Lipsky, NP and Maura Reidy, NP
