The Public Health Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Cambridge

COVID-19 Weekly Report

Cambridge City Council

March 22, 2021
Case Snapshot (as of March 21)

We continue to monitor cases in Cambridge, especially in neighborhoods of greatest need:

5,256 Total Cases
(confirmed, probable and suspect)
- 4,952 in the community
- 304 cases in long-term cares

121 Deaths
- 63% of deaths were among LTC residents

Active Cases
- 16% of all cases are active

15.4 Confirmed Cases per 100,000
(7-day average for March 14–20)

Test Positivity
- 0.45% (2-week period ending March 13)

COVID-19 Community Testing in Cambridge

![Bar chart showing total tests by date from July 1 to March 31.]

- **July 1 to 31:** 2040 tests
- **Aug 1 to 31:** 4144 tests
- **Sep 1 to 30:** 2811 tests
- **Oct 1 to 31:** 4811 tests
- **Nov 1 to 30:** 17468 tests
- **Dec 1 to 30:** 26327 tests
- **Jan 1 to 31:** 31595 tests
- **Feb 1 to 28:** 24202 tests
- **March 1 to 21:** 17,112 tests

---

Cambridge Public Health Department
COVID-19 Vaccine Update

COVID-19 Vaccination in MA: Eligibility Status

Phase 1
All phase 1 priority groups
Now eligible

Phase 2
1. Individuals age 75+
Now eligible
2. Individuals age 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions
Now eligible
3. K-12 educators, K-12 school staff, and child care workers
Now eligible
4. Individuals age 60+ and workers in certain sectors (including transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers)
Now eligible
5. Individuals age 55+ and individuals with 1 certain medical condition
Eligible 4/5

Phase 3
1. Individuals age 16+
Eligible 4/19

For more details on each group and phase visit mass.gov/COVIDvaccine
State Vaccine Updates

- **25% of Massachusetts residents** have received at least one dose of vaccine, as March 16.\(^1\)

- MA vaccine supply remains constrained; the state is receiving just over 400,000 doses a week from the federal government.

- Timeline for remaining groups:
  - **March 22:** Residents 60+ and certain workers
  - **April 5:** Residents age 55+ and those with one medical condition that meets state criteria.
  - **April 19:** General public age 16+

- Residents can pre-register to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site at [mass.gov/COVIDVaccine](http://mass.gov/COVIDVaccine).

---

The Cambridge Pandemic Collaborative (CPC) began administering vaccines in early January. As of March 19:

- **2,480 eligible people** had received at least one dose (Moderna) or the single-dose vaccine (J&J) at City-run clinics.
- **99% of Moderna vaccine** received had been administered.
- **Cambridge Housing Authority senior/disabled housing**
  - Beginning the week of March 29, CPHD will begin reaching out to 250+ senior residents living in 16 CHA properties.
City Vaccine Update: 
Homebound Vaccination Program

● Per state guidance, CPHD will be administering vaccine to eligible homebound residents.

● Eligibility for individuals who cannot leave home with assistance or significant support:
  ○ Those who are bedbound
  ○ Those with cognitive/behavioral issues (dementia)
  ○ Those with mobility issues/frail individuals

● CPHD, Cambridge Housing Authority, Council on Aging, and Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services are working to identify and screen residents who meet the specific criteria for homebound status.
Regional Vaccine Site

- On March 16, the state approved a proposal from Cambridge Health Alliance, Tufts University, and nine communities to create the Metro North COVID-19 Vaccination Partnership.
  - Arlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop.

- Continued constraints on vaccine supply mean that vaccine is not yet available for the partnership.

- **Proposed sites:** CHA’s Vaccination Center (Somerville), Tufts’ Gantcher Center, other sites TBD.
The proportion of Cambridge residents by race and ethnicity who have received **at least one dose of vaccine** in Cambridge and Massachusetts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Cambridge¹</th>
<th>MA²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total % of all residents who have received at least one dose</strong></td>
<td><strong>21%</strong></td>
<td><strong>25%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 Vaccine Communications

Clinician Speakers Bureau
● CPS Educators and Staff (March 24)
● Greater Boston Association of Black Social Workers (invited to speak, March 24)
● Cambridge Learning Center (Date TBD)
● Cambridge Community Center (Date TBD)
● Faith Community (Dates TBD)

Communications Campaign
● Multi-pronged approach
  ○ Launch a grassroots campaign in hard-to-reach communities to address hesitancy, registration, and accessibility.
  ○ Work with community organizations and leaders for broad dissemination and outreach.
  ○ Micro-targeted in specific neighborhoods.