



RESOURCE SNAPSHOT

The Intersection of Homelessness
and the COVID-19 Vaccine

January 21, 2021



Federal, State and Local Resources providing guidance and resources to those working with unsheltered and sheltered populations relative to the COVID-19 Vaccine.

FEDERAL

HUD's COVID-19 Homeless System Response—Vaccine Planning and Distribution

HUD notes that “Vaccines are a vital, lifesaving tool that prevent illness and death. Vaccines have greatly reduced or eliminated many infectious diseases that once routinely killed or harmed adults and children, particularly those living in poverty. It is essential that households experiencing homelessness have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Many states and counties around the country have prioritized vaccine access both for homeless service providers and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Homeless service providers will play a key role in supporting people experiencing homelessness becoming vaccinated. The documents below are products developed by HUD technical assistance providers in partnership with federal partners and subject matter experts. These materials are not directives but are templates and examples for optional use. At all times, local public health authorities direct and guide pandemic response and their instructions take precedence.”

Resources

- [How to Build Staff's Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (PDF)
- [Preparing Staff for the COVID-19 Vaccine: Communication and Confidence Checklist](#) (PDF)
- [Preparing Staff for the COVID-19 Vaccine: Meeting Template](#) (PDF)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Conversation Tips for Homeless Service Providers](#) (PDF)
- [Vaccine Ambassador Program and Job Description](#) (PDF)
- [Questions to Assist CoCs and Public Health Authorities to Plan and Prepare for Vaccine Distribution](#) (PDF)
- [Vaccine Planning and Distribution: Roles and Responsibilities for Homeless Service Providers](#) (PDF)

Flyers

- [Why Get Vaccinated?](#) (PDF)
- [Vaccinations are Just One Piece of Controlling the Virus](#) (PDF)
- [People Experiencing Homelessness: Three Reasons Why You Were Given Top Priority to Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#) (PDF)
- [Front Line Workers: Three Reasons Why You Were Given Top Priority to Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#) (PDF)

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates for Homeless Service Providers

https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/covid-19-vaccine-updates/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=17018370f3-SNAPS-COVID-19-Digest-1-19-2021&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-17018370f3-19315745

National Health Care for the Homeless Council

- COVID-19 and the HCH Community. This four page paper discusses and provides links related to all things COVID vaccine, state COVID-19 Vaccine Plans and Key Factors Influencing Successful Vaccination Campaigns specific to the homeless services community. <https://nhhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Issue-brief-10-COVID-19-HCH-Community-Vaccines.pdf>



STATE

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Congregate Care Settings

Mass.gov notes, “Residential congregate care programs, emergency shelter programs including homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters and Veterans’ shelters...which offer residential services...will begin to receive the vaccine the week of January 18.”

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccinations-for-congregate-care-settings>

Resources

- **Residential Congregate Care and Shelter Guidance:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-vaccine-congregate-care-and-shelter-guidance/download>
- **Powerpoint from the MA Department of Public Health : Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program (MCVP) Residential Congregate Care and Shelter Provider Webinar January 7, 2021**
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-program-mcvc-residential-congregate-care-and-shelter/download>

LOCAL

The local public health authority leads the local pandemic response.

The City of New Bedford’s Health Department has a variety of resources and information on COVID-19 at:

<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/health-department/coronavirus/>

Of note...HUD will be rolling out a series of materials to assist CoC/providers to join the conversation with local public health authorities:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Vaccine-Planning-and-Distribution-Roles-and-Responsibilities.pdf>

COMING UP...

The CDC will be hosting a webinar on vaccination among people experiencing homelessness. Jan 19th at 2pm EST:

registration here https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_BGywQdgyTiGjkwkSHVS1pw

IMPORTANT!

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines will not give you COVID-19

- **None** of the COVID-19 vaccines in use or under development use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- People can experience normal side effects, such as fever, after vaccination. These side effects are signs that the body is building immunity.
- It takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. A person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

Ensure Essential Staff and Those Experiencing Homelessness are Prioritized

HUD concurs with CDC guidance that:

1. Homeless services staff are essential workers and should be prioritized for Phase 1
2. Homeless shelters meet the definition of congregate settings and should be prioritized
3. Systemic racism, stigmatization of homelessness, and trauma experienced by racial and ethnic minority groups have led to diminished trust in healthcare systems. To improve vaccine confidence, communities must provide easily understandable and consistent vaccine information to staff and PEH.