



KEY UPDATES *week ending 2/5*

- We are in Phase 2 of the vaccination effort. People 75 and older are now eligible for the vaccine. Vaccine supplies remain limited and variable.
- High throughput vaccination sites are open at UMass, Amherst and the Eastfield Mall in Springfield. The Greenfield Big Y supermarket, and CVS pharmacy in Greenfield, are now offering vaccines by appointment, subject to vaccine availability. Valley Medical Group and the Community Health Center of Franklin County have begun vaccinating eligible patients and they, along with other health care providers in the county, will reach out directly to their patients when vaccine is available for them. **Franklin County residents who are able to use these services are encouraged to do so.**
- Pending vaccine availability, the FRCOG intends to run a clinic at Tree House Brewing Company in Deerfield on February 18th and 19th, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Registration for those dates will be posted on the [state's website](#) once we are certain how much vaccine we can expect to receive, which will not be until 2/12.
- The week of 2/22, we aim to hold a clinic at Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Buckland for two days and the week of 3/1, we aim to hold a clinic at Kringle Candle in Bernardston for two days. Exact dates and times for Mohawk and Kringle are still being determined. **The priority of these clinics is to service Franklin County residents who are unable to travel to the larger sites or receive their vaccine through other sources. The more people who are able to get to the state's vaccination sites in UMass and Springfield, the more local vaccine is available to those who have difficulty driving such distances.**
- We want to thank Greenfield for stepping up to run a centralized clinic for Franklin County. Their Phase 2 clinic is open by appointment and registration link have been sent to LifePath, area councils on aging, and senior centers so they can assist the most vulnerable with registration.
- The [LifePath](#) organization (the area's agency on aging in W. MA) has volunteers answering phones to help eligible seniors with questions about the vaccine.
- Residents of Franklin County are encouraged to volunteer at vaccine clinics by joining the county's Medical Reserve Core (MRC). More information on joining the MRC can be [found here](#).
- The Town of Orange is running drive through clinics for Orange, New Salem, and Wendell residents. Contact the [Orange Health Department](#) for more information.

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY PLAN

(updates are in red)

FRCOG, together with the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO), the Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC), the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), and registered municipal vaccine providers, have agreed on a unified Franklin County plan. The plan includes:

- Distributing information to county municipalities and other stakeholders weekly or more frequently, as necessary, through the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) platform.
- Releasing public education messaging weekly via print, web, social media, telephone hotline, and radio that provides clear and concise information of who is eligible to receive a vaccine and where and how to get it.
- Monitor and work with hospitals, community health centers, and other private vaccine providers to know what populations are eligible for the vaccine and how many are being served. (We currently anticipate that the majority of vaccines will be distributed through large statewide sites and private providers so local response will be critical, but potentially limited. This is subject to change as the state moves through the vaccination phases and is dependent on availability of the vaccine.)
- Monitor changes at the federal and state level to quickly adapt local response and planning.
- Share resources including staff, volunteers, equipment and, initially, vaccine.
- Agree on when and where local clinics are held and the role and extent of local clinics.
- Coordinate planning on how to vaccinate hard-to-reach populations and help people without technology capacity for registration, etc.

THE ROLE OF THE FRCOG

- Develop and disseminate countywide coordinated messaging.
- Draft and facilitate distribution of weekly MACC reports to inform municipal partners of ongoing vaccination planning efforts and results.
- Enhance public education and communication plan and ensure wide distribution to a variety of media outlets
- Plan and implement countywide logistics including scheduling and management of resources, facilities, volunteers, equipment.
- Develop ongoing and scaled local response efforts through Phases 2 and 3 based on an assessment of private, state, and federal distribution and vaccine availability.
- Monitoring changes at the federal and state level and advocating on behalf of the region with the MA Dept. of Public Health.

- Monitoring and working with hospitals, community health centers, and other private vaccine providers.
- Coordinating closely with stakeholders.
- Providing technical assistance for Franklin County municipalities around vaccination planning.

PARTNER ROLES AND OTHER LOGISTICS

- **LifePath's** SHINE volunteers will help identify seniors that need to be vaccinated, assess if they can travel to a vaccination site or need help with transportation. They are also taking a list of those who may be homebound and unable to travel to a clinic. LifePath can also assist with paperwork and registration for those that do not have the technical capacity to register online. Phone: (413) 829-9285.
- Veterans are eligible for vaccination by age group at the VA in Leeds. To register there, call (413) 584-4040.
- FRCOG and the **Northwest MA Incident Management Team** will provide overall regional coordination with Tracy Rogers as Incident Commander.
- Clinic volunteers, both medical and non-medical, will be provided by the **Franklin County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and local boards of health.**
- First responders will provide support such as traffic control and emergency medical services.
- FRCOG is working to hire additional vaccine managers (RNs) for FRCOG managed sites.

LOOKING AHEAD

Vaccinations and Vaccination Clinics

- In the spring and Phase 3 (general population), we are planning for large outdoor drive-through sites. (These sites may be unnecessary if large state and federal vaccination sites are nearby and are shown to have adequate capacity and efficiency.)

WHERE YOU CAN LEARN MORE

- Residents can call MA 211 for assistance registering at state run sites.
- [MA COVID Vaccine Website](#) has a wealth of information and [their map](#) shows all vaccination sites in the state.
- Franklin County COVID-19 vaccine information is available and updated on the [FRCOG website](#).
- Our COVID Hotline has a recorded message that is updated regularly and can be reached by calling (413) 774-3167 x153.
- You can join us online every two weeks for the FRCOG's COVID [Coordination Roundtables](#), open to any municipal stakeholder. Contact [Phoebe Walker](#) for more information or to ask for something to be put on the agenda.

**REMEMBER: THE COUNTY PLAN WILL CHANGE OFTEN!
HERES WHY:**

Changes in science

- Ever improving research on the virus and its strains.
- Vaccine production, availability, and approvals.

Changes in the federal response

- Expansion of vaccine distribution
- Funding for state and local response
- Potential for federal vaccination sites

Changes in state response and guidance

- Phased approach to manage limited vaccine and expectations
- Phases change
- State's vaccine distribution plan changes in response to vaccine availability and continual evaluation of efficiency and capacity

Changes in local response

- Responses to the changes above are always on-going
- Assessment of capacity and lessons learned from testing sites and first responder clinics are always on-going
- Assessment of county demographics and population to identify vaccine-eligible populations are always on-going