

## Successful First Week of Regional Collaborative Vaccine Clinics!

Years' worth of pandemic and emergency preparedness work culminated with our County successfully opening and running regional Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics in Deerfield and Buckland (Bernardston and Montague coming up next!). Wait times, from check-in to getting the vaccine, were 10-15 minutes, and hundreds of County residents received their shots. So many individuals from so many organizations came together to make this possible. Volunteer staff were a joy to work with.

### Big thanks to our volunteers and regional partners:

Franklin County Medical Reserve Corps	Franklin County Emergency Dispensing Site Teams	 <p><i>Deerfield Vaccine Clinic at Tree House Brewery, Thursday, February 25 (Photo taken by PAUL FRANZ of the <a href="#">Recorder</a>)</i></p>
Lifepath, local senior centers, councils on aging, & boards of health	South County EMS, Shelburne Falls Ambulance, & Colrain Ambulance	
Our hosts at The Tree House Brewery, Kringle Candle, & Mohawk Trail Regional High School	The Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition and the Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee	
Greenfield's Health and Fire Departments, Deerfield Police Department, and the Buckland Police Department	Northwest MA Incident Management Team	
The Franklin County Sheriff's Office	Our legislators who've so strongly advocated for our region	
		The FRCOG's Cooperative Public Health Service and its public health nurses, Emergency Preparedness Program, and all of the other staff members who've helped make these clinics possible



## Key Updates *week ending Friday, February 26*

**State Vaccine Website Remains Vulnerable to Bots and Crashes** – Until another solution is found, our upcoming County clinics will be posted as “private clinics” for Franklin County residents, requiring private web links in order to register. We are in the process of removing our clinic postings from the [state vaccine finder website](#) and exploring options to host our own registration webpage dedicated to our regional clinics. Until stated otherwise, we will post these private registration web links to our [website](#) and distribute to municipal partners, senior centers, and LifePath each Monday morning.

Moving forward with “private clinics” and with ongoing vaccine shortages and delivery disruptions, we face questions of fairness and equity in who receives access to our limited vaccine doses. The primary intention for these regional clinics is to serve County residents who are unable to, or have difficulty traveling, outside of the county to receive a vaccine. Additionally, we are aware of those who lack access or ability to navigate the online registration system that our state uses to schedule vaccine appointments. LifePath is maintaining a list of seniors who are unable to register for these clinics on their own and we have worked with them to ensure that additional time and support are given to those who need it.

**Vaccine Supply to Franklin County** – The algorithm that MA Dept. of Public Health uses to allocate vaccine doses is based on how many total doses have been allocated vs. how many were administered. Because of the weather delaying our vaccine delivery last week, we were concerned that the formula would work against us. With collaboration with MDPH this issue has been resolved. The FRCOG will receive 500 doses for the North County Regional Clinic in Bernardston and The City of Greenfield will receive 1000 for its weekly clinic.

**East County Clinic in Orange** - Planning is underway to open a collaborative clinic between the City of Orange and the FRCOG. Adding this clinic as an additional regional site is dependent on vaccine supply to our County in the coming weeks/months. More information will be provided in as the planning process moves forward.

## Private web links for upcoming Vaccine Clinic(s)

*After this Plan Update, the FRCOG will release new clinic links on Monday morning in coordination with our regional partners.*

**North County Vaccine Clinic in Bernardston** is scheduled for Monday, March 8th and Tuesday, March 9th at **Kringle Candle’s Barn at the Farm Table** from 2:00 p.m – 7:30 p.m. This is a “private clinic” registration only through these private links:

[Monday, March 8th](#) & [Tuesday, March 9th](#)

## FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL CLINICS

The **Greenfield Clinic** operated by the City of Greenfield continues weekly with vaccinations at the Jon Zon Senior Center. Please check the [registration website](#) to see times and availability of appointments.

**South County Clinic in Deerfield** for the week of February 22 is now complete and the **West County Vaccine Clinic in Buckland** for the week of February 22 will conclude on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. These clinics are scheduled to return to the **Tree House Brewery** in Deerfield and the **Mohawk Trail Regional High School** in Buckland in the four weeks to administer second doses. Further first dose vaccinations at these clinics are anticipated but will depend on vaccine availability to the FRCOG in the coming weeks/months.

**North County Vaccine Clinic in Bernardston** is scheduled for Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at Kringle Candle's Barn at the Farm Table from 2:00 p.m – 7:30 p.m. This is a "private clinic" registration only through these private links:

[Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>](#)

[Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>](#)

**The Central County Vaccine Clinic in Montague** is planned for the week of March 8<sup>th</sup> at **Franklin County Technical School**. Dates and times to be determined and subject to vaccine availability.

Planning for an **East County Clinic in Orange** is underway. This clinic will operate as a collaboration between the City of Orange and the FRCOG. Opening this clinic as another regional site is dependent on vaccine supply to our County in the coming weeks/months. More information will be provided in as the planning process moves forward.

As of February 23, 2021 **9,800 doses of vaccine have been shipped to Franklin County**. The amount of doses shipped to the County does not accurately reflect the amount of vaccines that county residents have received. [MA Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#).

*On February 18<sup>th</sup>, vaccine eligibility expanded to people 65 and older (regardless of medical condition), people 16 and older with two certain medical conditions, and staff and residents of low income and affordable senior housing. There is not enough vaccine supply to meet demand and vaccine appointments are filling up very quickly. Our Clinics are intended to support the needs of Franklin County residents who have difficulty or are unable to travel to vaccine appointments outside of the region. To achieve this goal, we are working with municipal partners, senior centers, LifePath, and other organizations to fill appointments with residents from the County who need our support. We are working diligently to secure and administer vaccine to residents of our County and to ensure equity and fairness in this process. Planning for and running these Clinics is challenging. Thank you for your patience and continued support.*

## OTHER VACCINATION SITES

Those able to travel are encouraged to schedule appointments at the **large throughput vaccination sites** at [UMass Amherst](#) and [The Eastfield Mall in Springfield](#).

**Pharmacies**, like [CVS](#) and [Big Y](#), are accepting appointments through their websites.

Franklin County **doctor's offices and health centers** are scheduling appointments with their patients. Please do not call about vaccinations. When vaccines and appointments are available, they will call you to schedule an appointment.

The **Community Health Center of Franklin County** ([CHCFC.org](#)) is open to vaccinate area agricultural workers living in communal settings. Interested individuals should contact CHCFC's Shannan Beaton, at (413) 325-8501 or [covidinfo@chcfc.org](mailto:covidinfo@chcfc.org) More info on [their website](#).

A comprehensive list of vaccination sites in Massachusetts, including times, locations, and registration links, can be found on [www.vaxfinder.mass.gov](http://www.vaxfinder.mass.gov).

## FRANKLIN COUNTY VACCINATION PLAN

Franklin County has agreed upon a unified plan coordinated by the FRCOG. This plan is a living document and is updated as needed. The latest version of the plan is posted on the [FRCOG website](#) and available for download.

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 added to the agenda.

## RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS

For help scheduling an appointment, arranging transportation, or if you are homebound or know of someone who is, call [Lifepath](#) at (413) 829-9285.

Residents may call **MA 2-1-1** for assistance registering at state-run sites.

Our Franklin County COVID Vaccine Hotline has a recorded message that is updated regularly and can be reached by calling (413) 774-3167, extension 153.

[MA COVID Vaccine Website](#) has a wealth of information about the vaccine.

[www.Vaxfinder.mass.gov](http://www.Vaxfinder.mass.gov) shows a comprehensive list of vaccination sites in the state, with dates, times, and appointment registration links.

Franklin County COVID-19 vaccine information is available on the [FRCOG website](#).