



Regional vaccine clinics continue to deliver vaccine. More clinics planned.

Buckland hosted its first vaccine clinic last week, vaccinating 363 people. Wait times at Mohawk Trail Regional High School were 10-15 minutes from check-in to getting the vaccine. The previous week, the Tree House Brewery vaccine clinic in Deerfield vaccinated 490 people. The City of Orange reports 642 fully immunized people. Our local Medical Reserve Corps has provided 1,042 hours of volunteers’ time supporting the Franklin County vaccination effort. We are extremely grateful to the numerous volunteers who contributed to these efforts.

Upcoming Vaccine Clinics include:

Bernardston on Monday, March 8th and Tuesday, March 9th at Kringle Candle, from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Montague on Friday, March 12th and Saturday, March 13th at the Tech School. **Vaccine availability uncertain. Awaiting info from State.**

Orange on Saturday, March 13th at Mahar Regional High School, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Vaccine availability uncertain. Awaiting info from State.**

** Links for the above Vaccine Clinics will be shared on Monday afternoon, March 8, 2021 at <https://frcog.org/covid-vaccine/> **



FRCOG staffers Tracy Rogers (l) and Ryan Clary (r), with School Superintendent Sheryl Stanton (c), worked with dozens of volunteers at the Buckland Vaccine Clinic on March 3 and 4.

- *CVS and Big Y vaccination websites continue to operate as before.*
- *If you are homebound or need help scheduling an appointment, call [Lifepath](https://lifepath.org/) at (413) 829-9285.*
- *Those able to travel are encouraged to schedule appointments at the large throughput vaccination sites at [UMass Amherst](https://umass.edu/) and [The Eastfield Mall in Springfield](https://springfield-mall.com/).*



Key Updates *week ending Friday, March 5, 2021*

State Vaccine Websites Remain Vulnerable to Bots, Crashes, with Few to No Appointments – We are currently negotiating with MA Dept. of Public Health to allow us to set aside some percentage of doses at our County clinics for Franklin County residents, requiring private web links in order to register for an appointment to receive the vaccine at a vaccine clinic. We are also exploring options to host our own registration webpage dedicated to our regional clinics. Until stated otherwise, every Monday by noon we will post these private registration web links to our [website](#) and distribute these links to municipal partners, senior centers, and LifePath.

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 may 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.

K-12 Educators, Child Care Workers and K-12 School Staff Will be Eligible for Vaccine Appointments on Thursday, March 11, - The Baker-Polito administration announced this week that starting March 11, the State’s 400,000 K-12 educators, child care workers, and K-12 school staff will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The FRCOG is working closely with DPH and partners to manage the rising numbers of eligible persons in a context of limited vaccine supplies.

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, we were concerned that the formula would work against us. In collaboration with MDPH, this issue has been resolved.

East County Clinic in Orange – FRCOG and the City of Orange have reached agreement on running a collaborative vaccine clinic in Orange on Saturday, March 13. See above for link information. Adding the Orange site as a regional vaccine clinic is dependent on vaccine supply to our County in the coming weeks/months.

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.

As of March 4, 2021 **11,006 doses of vaccine have been shipped to Franklin County**. The number of doses shipped to the County does not accurately reflect the number of vaccines that county residents have received. [MA Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Report](#).

On February 18th, 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. Our Vaccine 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 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](#).

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 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](#).



Franklin Regional
Council of Governments

FRANKLIN COUNTY VACCINATION PLAN UPDATE:

Issue 7 - Friday, February 26, 2021

<https://frcog.org/covid-vaccine/>