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Booking Now! COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments for 65+ and Individuals with 2+ Medical Conditions

February 18, 2021 (Wellesley, MA) – Wellesley residents age 65+ and individuals with two or more [certain defined medical conditions](#) can begin booking COVID-19 vaccine appointments today. This announcement by the Governor means almost 1 million people are newly eligible to be vaccinated. With the vaccine supply still limited and very few local health departments, including the Wellesley Health Department, receiving allocations from the State, residents are urged to be patient and check vaccine websites frequently for updated appointments.

New appointments were posted at 8 a.m. this morning at mass vaccination sites near Wellesley – Gillette Stadium in Foxboro and Fenway Park in Boston – along with appointments at CVS, Stop & Shop, Walgreens, and Wegmans pharmacies. Check the State [COVID-19 Vaccine Finder](#), or the independent vaccine scheduling website [VaccinateMA](#). Appointments also may be available at [AFC Urgent Care in Natick](#). **Please note:** Companion appointments remain available ONLY for one individual who is assisting a senior 75+ to an appointment at a mass vaccine site.

Right now, there are no dates for COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Wellesley. “We’re very frustrated not to be receiving vaccine doses from the State. We’ve spent a great deal of time training our staff and developing clinic logistics but the State is focused on using mass vaccination sites and retail pharmacies to dispense shots. Vaccine doses are only going to local health departments in high risk communities, and Wellesley continues to be moderate risk,” said Health Director Lenny Izzo. “Our message to residents is DO NOT WAIT for a local clinic to get your shot as we don’t know when that will be possible.”

If senior residents need help scheduling appointments online, the Council on Aging continues to offer assistance at **781-235-3961**. The COA is also temporarily extending weekday bus service to help bring residents to vaccine appointments at certain locations outside of Wellesley. Call the COA directly for more information.

Plans to vaccinate homebound Wellesley residents and older adults living in private and public low income or affordable housing communities are being developed by the Health Department and the Wellesley Housing Authority. More information about this eligible group will be announced as soon as it’s available.

Two or More Medical Conditions

Individuals 16 or older with two or more certain defined medical conditions can also begin scheduling appointments today. These conditions are adopted from [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidelines](#) and can cause individuals to be at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. The State has also added moderate to severe asthma as an eligible condition.

Eligible medical conditions:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

An important reminder: The [Pfizer vaccine](#) is the only one currently approved for individuals 16 years and older. If you fall into this age group, please make sure you schedule a vaccine appointment at a site offering the Pfizer vaccine.

UK Variant Case

The Health Department has reported the first case in Wellesley of the COVID-19 variant (B.1.1.7) identified in the United Kingdom. Officials say this is not surprising; the case appears to be from community spread rather than acquired from traveling.

To provide greater protection against COVID-19 variants, the [CDC has released guidance](#) on how to make wearing masks more effective.

Health officials continue to remind residents to continue to take all COVID-19 precautions – wearing a mask, maintaining distance from others, and washing your hands often – even after receiving the vaccine to make sure everyone in our community remains as safe as possible.

For more information, go to the [Massachusetts COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpages.

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