

An Update on Vaccinations for the UMass Boston Community

Marie Bowen, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Gail DiSabatino, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Robert Pomales, Executive Director of University Health Services | April 26, 2021



As we communicated recently, and assuming health conditions continue to improve, we are planning for a return to campus this fall. One of the critical factors in our planning is widespread immunization as more vaccine becomes available to immunize against the COVID-19 virus. Indeed, on Monday, April 19, vaccine eligibility in Massachusetts expanded to the general population ages 16 years and older. As vaccination is the most effective way to stop the spread of the virus, it will be a key component in our eventual return to campus. Thus, **we will require vaccinations for all UMass Boston students who are coming to campus, or physically accessing campus resources for the fall semester, and wish to live, learn and/or conduct research on campus**, on the basis of expected additional state, federal, and legal guidance and vaccine availability. We will accommodate medical, disability, and religious exemptions.

At this time, **we recommend and strongly encourage faculty and**

staff to be vaccinated prior to the fall semester. We may revisit the issue of required vaccinations for faculty and staff as we continue to develop our plans to assure the health and safety of all members of our community.

We recognize there is a list of issues we need to work through, including whether and which vaccinations received abroad will be recognized. We will provide additional guidance on that and other matters as soon as possible.

Getting vaccinated:

As noted above, on Monday, April 19, vaccine eligibility in Massachusetts expanded to the general public ages 16 years and older.

Preregister at VaccineSignUp.mass.gov to be notified when it's your turn to schedule an appointment at one of seven mass vaccination locations: Hynes Convention Center in Boston, Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Reggie Lewis Center in Boston, DoubleTree Hotel in Danvers, Eastfield Mall in Springfield, Natick Mall, and the former Circuit City in Dartmouth.

Use VaxFinder.mass.gov to search for appointments at pharmacies, healthcare providers, and other community locations.

I'm vaccinated, what now?

Congratulations! You're vaccinated! But we still need your help to keep our entire community safe.

Individual vaccination status does not change access to campus or the university's expectations for compliance with safety protocols. Vaccinated individuals must still wear face coverings, practice physical distancing, and participate in the surveillance testing program if normally required to do so.

For more information about vaccines please visit the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#).

We thank all of you for doing your part to help our community stay safe and healthy while we collectively fight against this global pandemic.

Stay safe; stay strong. Go Beacons!

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