

Massachusetts Adult Immunization Coalition Meeting

Virtual Meeting, September 30, 2025 - 10:00am - 12:00pm

MAIC Meeting Minutes

Topic	Topic Leader
Welcome 10:00am	Rich Baker - MAIC
Adult Vaccination & ACIP meeting	Dr. Angela Fowler - MDPH
Massachusetts Vaccine Policy Update	Pejman Talebian - MDPH
Community Vaccination Resource Highlights	Suzanne Crowther, MDPH
Massachusetts Seasonal Vaccine Update & Select Vaccine Resources	Rich Baker - MAIC
MIAP Conference Announcement https://cvent.me/5vYW1k	Cynthia McReynolds - MCAAP

Welcome - Rich Baker - MAIC

- The meeting is being recorded. The meeting is posted on our website. You must register to view the recording.
- Overview of recent MAIC activities:
 - MAIC is one of 3 facilitators of the Massachusetts Vaccine Confidence Project. Efforts this year are focusing on capacity building for providers. A new tool has been developed: Communicating with Confidence.
- Recent outreach and education has taken place with: MAPHN, MCOA, CHW Core Competency Training
- Building regional partnerships with CT Immunization Coalition.
- Massachusetts Vaccine Education Webinar series: new webinar on October 9 from 12-1PM - 2025-26 Respiratory Illness Season Update.
- MAIC Community Spotlight that highlights innovative vaccine work - Hilltown Development Corporation. One of the recipients of Vaccine Equity funding.

MAIC Community Spotlight:

- Nonprofit CBO based in Chesterfield, dedicated to empowering rural communities in the 17-town Hilltown region of MA
- A recipient of DPH funding through the Vaccine Equity Initiative.
- HCDC successfully vaccinated 182 Hilltown residents through mobile events.
- Collaboration and capacity building of trusted messengers were key to their success.
- They continue to build relationships to support vaccination efforts.

To learn more, contact Joan Griswold at
joang@hilltowncdc.org



"Nothing gets done in rural communities without collaborating. COVID allowed for capacity building. If we could do it for something we couldn't predict, imagine what we could do for something we plan and calculate."
- Joan Griswold, Dir. of Community Programs

Presentation 1 - Dr. Angela Fowler - MDPH

- Federal vaccine policy has been chaotic this year.
- Challenges:
 - ACIP is no longer a reliable source for science and evidence-based vaccine recommendations.
 - ACIP recommendations are tied to insurance coverage nationally.
 - ACIP recommendations are often linked to the regulatory oversight of non physician practitioners in administering vaccines.
- MDPH committed to maintaining access and good recommendations and promoting vaccination
- Current ACIP members largely unqualified and skeptical of vaccines - committee is not engaging with the scientific community
- MA has released recommendations in collaboration with [Northeast Public Health Collaborative \(NEPHC\)](#)
- MA now required insurance companies to cover vaccines recommended by MA DPH
- Pharmacists and local boards of health are now authorized to administer the COVID-19 vaccine via standing order
- Walkthrough FDA COVID vaccine policies - May, August, September
 - Most recent recommendation - shared clinical decision making for all groups
- MA recommendations COVID vaccines based on - vaccine are safe, COVID is still a threat, vaccines are effective
 - All adults 65 + should receive 2 doses 6 months apart
 - Adults 19-64 with medical conditions or with household contacts at risk of severe
 - Healthy adults should have access to a covid vaccine

MA DPH COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations for Special populations

- People with moderate to severe immunocompromise should receive two doses of a 2025-2026 vaccine COVID-19 vaccine with the second dose administered 6 months after the first.
- People with moderate to severe immunocompromise may receive additional doses of 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., a total of ≥ 3 doses of 2025–2026 COVID-19 vaccine) at a minimum interval of 2 months.^c
- People who are pregnant, contemplating pregnancy, have recently been pregnant or who are lactating should receive one dose of a 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine.
- All healthcare workers should receive one dose of a 2025-2026 COVID-19 vaccine, independent of age or underlying medical conditions.

April 2025 ACIP Recommendation

ACIP recommends that adults 50–59 years of age who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease receive a single dose of RSV vaccine

- The risk conditions will be the same list of conditions as for the 60-74y risk-based recommendation.
 - RSV vaccination is recommended as a single dose only. Persons who have already received RSV vaccination are NOT recommended to receive another dose.
 - RSV vaccine can be administered with any product licensed in this age group.
 - There is likely to be a risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) associated vaccination with subunit protein RSV vaccination in the 50-59y population, similar to what is observed for ≥65y. It is estimated that 0–18 cases of vaccine-associated GBS would be expected per 1 million people vaccinated with protein subunit RSV vaccine.
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- Chikungunya
 - Two vaccines developed - 11/2023 & 2/2025
 - Recommended for:
 - persons traveling to areas with outbreaks
 - Person traveling to areas with previous outbreaks
 - Lab workers exposed to virus

Questions:

- Is it reasonable for an elder adult to have 3 vax at same time? **Yes, studies have shown it is safe.** Judith Melin - RSV, HD Flu, and COVID-19 vax on same day for elderly? **Yes, studies have shown it is safe - There is no preference for any of the COVID vaccines.**
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2794318>
- I know you said that ACIP does not recommend the use of Thimerosal in flu vaccines, does MA DPH state it is okay to still use? **All state-supplied flu doses with thimerosal swapped out. DPH remains neutral on the topic of thimerosal in vaccines.**

Resources shared:

<https://www.chop.edu/sites/default/files/vaccine-education-center-vaccine-ingredients.pdf>
<https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p2068.pdf>
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2794318>

PRESENTATION 2 - Pejman Talebian

- CDC has not endorsed any of the vaccine recommendations for ACIP meeting. The recommendations have no meaning until endorsed by the CDC Director.
- Once endorsed, DPH will communicate that ordering can commence.
- Keep hearing it's coming any day now, but DPH is working on contingency plans with McKesson and manufacturers to bypass CDC and purchase vaccines directly if necessary.
- Pharmacy's are vaccinating. There should be no insurance issues for persons 19 and older.

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Questions:

- One participant shared that locally on Cape Cod uninsured folks have to pay out of pocket \$170-\$220 per shot at CVS. **Vaccines for uninsured adults will hopefully be available in the coming weeks.**
- If there is a government shutdown will that delay any potential rollout of state supplied COVID? - **Past government shutdowns have not impacted vaccine ordering through the CDC.**

PRESENTATION 3 - Suzanne Crowther, DPH - Health Marketing Director

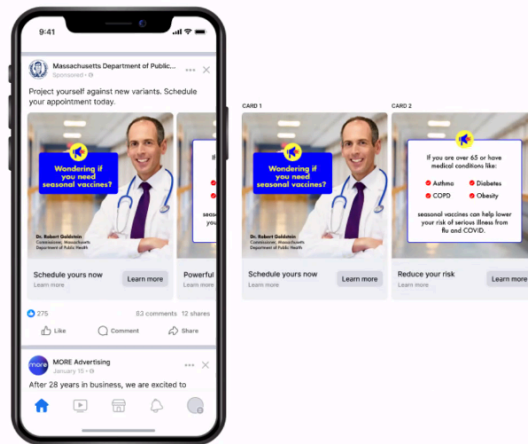
Seasonal Vaccine Campaign Update

Notes:

- Reduced funding has required a more limited, and tailored approach to awareness campaigns for this season.
- Campaign focus has been narrowed to focus on persons more likely to have complications from illness.
- The campaign will largely focus on the “Remind Me” and “Inform Me” target populations.
- Examples of seasonal vaccine social media toolkit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/seasonal-vaccine-social-media-toolkit>

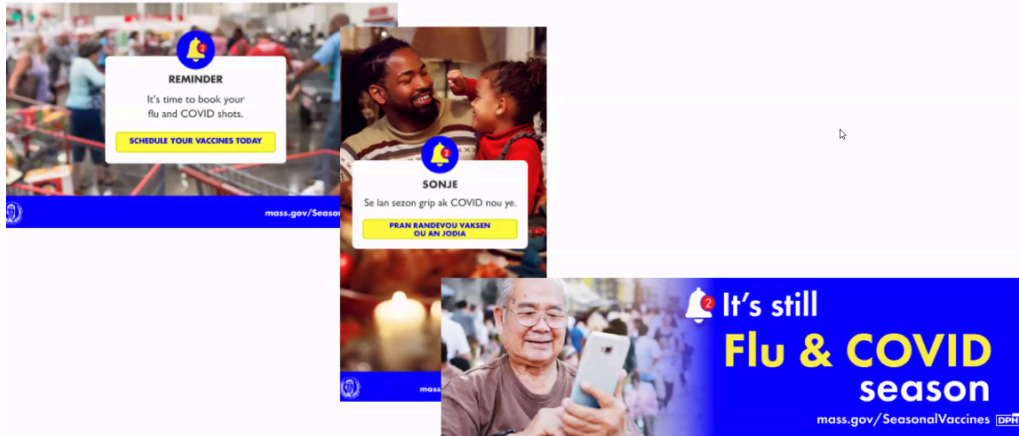
Social Carousel



Community Billboards



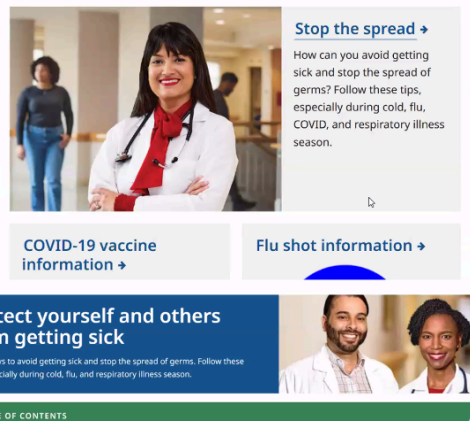
Message Shifts Throughout the Season



Resources



Protect yourself from flu and COVID





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Resources Shared:

YLE - <https://yourlocalepidemiologist.substack.com/>

JUST THE FACTS NEWSLETTER - <https://www.voicesforvaccines.org/resources/just-the-facts-newsletter/>

VACCINE INTELLIGENCE REPORT - https://secure.everyaction.com/AH_c9yU75EmbCoxrR3Sosw2

Vaccinate your family university - <https://vaccinateyourfamily.org/vyf-university/>

MDPH Imm Updates - <https://web.cvent.com/event/752d9050-cfe9-4ce0-ac7c-a9be8cd9d621/summary>

North Dakota State University Vax Communication Resources -

https://www.ndsu.edu/centers/immunize/events_and_educational_opportunities/vaccine-communication-age-polarization

Boost Oregon Webinar - Empathy in Action: Vaccine Conversations Across Cultures -

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KN-PTc-uQB-nP89DH57O6A#/registration

MAIC - Vaccine Education Webinar Series:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zQwWgsSuQZGXweOYdl4U2g#/registration

Communicating with Confidence:

<https://massvaccineconfidenceproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Communicating-with-Confidence-Resource-List.pdf>

Facts about Autism & Vaccines -

https://vaccinateyourfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AutismSociety_Infographic-Autism-and-Vaccines-FAQ_2025-09V1F_Digital.pdf

MIAP Conference website - <https://cvent.me/5vYW1k>



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