

Follow-up for Positive COVID-19 Cases and their Close Contacts

Tools for LBOHs

November 16, 2021

Hillary Johnson, MHS, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist
Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP, CIC, Surveillance Epidemiologist
Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences
MA Department of Public Health



Topics Today

- **MAVEN Updates**
- **CTC Timeline Reminder**
- **Review from Last Week**
- **Test and Stay Updates**
- **Vaccine Reminders**
- **CTC & Contact Tracing Transition**
 - Increasing Local Capacity
- **What are your needs?**



MDPH Conducts Weekly COVID-19 Case Investigation Webinars



MAVEN Help has Guidance Documents and Previous Webinars:

<http://www.maventrainingsite.com/maven-help/toc.html>

Webinars: Tuesdays @ 11am

- **MDPH presents weekly on Tuesdays 11:00-12:15**
 - Updates in Guidance
 - Troubleshooting MAVEN
 - How to conduct case investigations and contact tracing in different settings.
 - Target Audience: Health Agents, Contact Tracers, and Public Health Nurses doing this work.

MDPH Epi Program: 617-983-6800

MDPH MAVEN Help Desk: isishelp@mass.gov

MDPH ISIS Help Desk: 617-983-6801

MDPH ISIS Fax: 617-983-6813

DESE Rapid Response Help Center: (781) 338-3500

CTC Help Desk: 857-305-2828

CTC Local Health Help ctclocalhealthhelp@covid19.pih.org

[CTC Supervisor Contact List](#)

[Higher Ed Contact List](#)

COVID-19 Case Investigations

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Updates for today, Tuesday, 11/9/2021

- **CTC Timeline for Closure** - Last Day to send cases is **11/30**
- **Proposed Changes to the COVID workflows as of 12/1**
- **Reminder to check your Immediate, Routine & Pending Case Report Form Workflows (something other than COVID)**
- **LBOH Immediate Workflow** – COVID-19 events only – please check your workflow **TODAY** and clear out the workflow
- **COVID Workflows Changes and “COVID Assistance to Yes” (Disabling this field)**
- **MA Wastewater Project – Monina Klevens**

Timeline for CTC Closure

- The last day to send cases to the CTC is Tuesday, November 30
- Your Local Health Liaison (LHL) will be available through Thursday, December 30.
- The CTC will close Friday, December 31.

			December				
11/16	11/22	11/29	12/1	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27
Today		★ 11/30 Last day to send cases to CTC	★ MAVEN Release /Update				★ 12/30 End of LHL support ★ 12/31 CTC closes

Thanksgiving week

Winter holidays

Changes to COVID Assistance to Yes (Admin QP)

- Cases will be sent in the morning and late date on **11/30/21** to CTC
- COVID Assistance Requested** in the Administrative Question Package will be **disabled on 11/30/21**

Local Health and Investigation Steps (1 - 5)

COVID Assistance Requested:

will be disabled 11/30/21

Step 1 - LBOH acknowledged:

Step 2 - Investigation started:

Step 3 - LBOH/Agency Investigator:

Step 4 - Case Report Form Completed:

Changes to COVID Workflows, 12/1/2021

Proposed Changes to Workflows for COVID

- CTC Set Assistance to Yes for Contacts will be **disabled**
- CTC Set Assistance to Yes for Cases will be **disabled**
- Add** a bulk action feature for COVID cases workflow to allow you to update Step 1 to Yes (LBOH Notification)
- Workflow will only hold cases for 72 hours – you will need to use your Confirmed and Probable Report to manage cases

★	LBOH COVID-19: Set COVID Assistance to Yes (Contacts Only)	✗
★	LBOH COVID-19: Set COVID Assistance to Yes (Probable and Confirmed)	✗
		add Bulk action & only
★	LBOH Notification for Immediate Disease (COVID only)	✓ have 72 hours of cases

Check your Immediate, Routine & Pending Workflows

- **Reminder to check your Immediate, Routine, Pending Case Report Form Workflows**
 - **LBOH Notification for Immediate Disease**
 - **LBOH Notification for Routine disease (770 cases sitting in this workflow today)**
 - **LBOH Case Report Forms (CRF) are pending (940 cases)**



Immediate Notification workflow (COVID-19 Only)

- **UPDATE: COVID-19 Immediate Notification Workflow** - **1,454** events in this workflow this morning
 - This will allow proper notification of all new COVID-19 events for your jurisdiction. **(Confirmed and Probable Cases)**
 - Please review all events/cases in this workflow and complete your **Step 1- LBOH Notification to “Yes”** to clear out this workflow.
 - If you are retaining ownership then complete **Step 2** (Investigation Started) & **Step 3** (LBOH Investigator (name, lboh, phone number))
 - When you are done then complete Step 4 (Case Report Form Complete)
 - You can complete **Step 5** if you want – if not then leave blank



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Locations selected and with agreements to conduct wastewater surveillance for SARS CoV 2

Town of Billerica
Town of Bridgewater Water and Sewer Dept
Veolia Brockton
South Hadley Div. of Water Pollution Control
City of Haverhill Waste Water Treatment Plant
Town of Hull
Greater Lawrence Sanitary District
Upper Blackstone Clean Water
North Attleboro Waste Water Treatment Facility
Town of Rockland Sewer Department
Wareham Water Pollution Control Facility
City of Pittsfield
Provincetown Treatment Plant

Sampling 2-3 times/week

Invitation to collaborate –

- Monthly discussions
- Launch Thurs, Dec 9
- Contact Monina Klevens - monina.klevens@mass.gov

UPDATED Fall 2021 Introduction to Case Investigation & Contact Tracing for Local Public Health & Higher Education Series

New Staff? Start Here

Part ONE: COVID-19 Basics (Oct. 5, 2021)

- [Part One: COVID-19 Basics Slides](#)
- [Part One: COVID-19 Basics Recording](#)
- Part One training will include:
 - **COVID-19 Basics**
 - Background
 - Signs & Symptoms
 - Transmission
 - Defining Close Contact
 - **Vaccination**
 - **Isolation & Quarantine**
 - Calculations & Guidance

Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation (Oct. 12, 2021)

- [Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Slides](#)
- [Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Recording](#)
- Part Two: Case Investigation will include:
 - **Review of Part 1 Key Concepts**
 - Your FAQs
 - **Laboratory Testing for COVID-19**
 - PCR, Antigen, and Serology (antibody)
 - Home Tests
 - Sequencing for Variant Identification
 - **Case Investigation**
 - The Interview Tool
 - **Contact Tracing and Notification**
 - Contact Identification Forms
 - **Key Resources**

New and onboarding staff are encouraged to review these trainings. You do not have to be a MAVEN user.

Summary of Key Guidance & Tools

- **MA Testing Guidance: Updated June 14, 2021**

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing-guidance>

Updated in June

- **MA Travel Information**

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel>

MA Travel
Advisory is Gone.

- Return to normal travel recommendations for vaccinated people, and says to check CDC pages for the latest on domestic and international travel.

- **Isolation & Quarantine Guidance Documents**

- 09/29/21 Updated Quarantine Guidance: <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/information-and-guidance-for-persons-in-quarantine-due-to-covid-19>
 - **Update: Abbott BinaxNOW no longer specified for antigen testing out of strict quarantine.**
 - Guidance states recently recovered (in first 90 days) and fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine.
 - Quarantine Guidance Translations available here: <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/information-and-guidance-for-persons-in-quarantine-due-to-covid-19#download-in-additional-languages>
- 12/7/2020: Isolation Guidance Document <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/information-and-guidance-for-persons-in-isolation-due-to-covid-19>

Updated Quarantine Guidance
9/29/21!

- **Date: March 8, 2021 – Occupational Exposure & Return to Work Guidance**

- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/return-to-work-guidance/download>
- Now includes language about recently recovered and fully vaccinated people.

Helpful to get
Docs to test Kids

- **Pediatric Clinical Testing Advisory**

- 11/25/2020 Advises Pediatricians to Test for COVID-19 in all patients with symptoms compatible with COVID, regardless of age
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/pediatric-and-adolescent-covid-19-testing-guidance/download>

- **Date: 10/13/2021 COVID-19 Testing Scenarios FAQ**

- Describes different lab test results and what to do
- Outlines discordant results and what they mean
- http://www.maventrainingssite.com/maven-help/pdf/COVID-19%20Testing%20Scenarios%20FAQ_Ver%202.0_October_13_2021.pdf

NEW Lab Results
FAQ!!! 10/13/21

- **09/03/2021 Updated COVID-19 Case Classification Manual**

- http://www.maventrainingssite.com/maven-help/pdf/case-classification-manual/COVID19_08312021.pdf
- **COVID-19 now 90 days (so new event will be generated with a new positive lab after 90 days)**

Updated 9/3 with new 90-day
COVID event time period!

Summary of Key Guidance & Tools

Date: 8/22/2020 - [MDPH COVID-19 PCR and Antibody Testing Public Health Response Recommendations](#)

- Table describes different Public Health Actions based upon different testing results.
- Big take home: PCR & Antigen positive patients should be treated like cases.
- Serology positive cases do not require public health follow-up.

Date 8/10/2020 - [MDPH Follow-up Table for Positive Antigen Test Results](#)

- Reminder that while Antigen Tests = Probable, we still treat like a case and isolate accordingly & do contact tracing.
- A PCR obtained at the same time (w/i 2 calendar days) will trump the antigen test result.

Date: 09/14/2021- [Ending Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19: Interim Guidance](#)

- 10 Day Isolation Period now has more data supporting it.
- Ignore most additional PCR tests up to 3 months after initial illness onset.
- No need to quarantine up to 3 months after initial illness onset.

CDC Updated Pages

- **CDC Vaccines Guidance Page:**

- [“Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States”](#)
 - Everything you need to know regarding vaccination guidelines.
 - Who should get what vaccine?
 - Timing of vaccines.
 - Recommendations for additional doses or boosters for different populations.
 - Contraindications and precautions.
 - Vaccine ingredients.
 - Administration of Vaccines (how to, what to use, etc.)
 - This is a living document that gets updated as recommendations are adopted and refined.

- **Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)’s Ask the Experts page**

- https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_cov.asp
 - Great resource for all your vaccine questions in a Q&A format.

- **CDC guidance on VACCINATED PEOPLE:**

- [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)
 - Talks about what precautions are still needed for fully vaccinated people, etc.
 - Some recommendations are still under consideration here in MA.

Updates – A quick recap for Nov. 16, 2021

We Last Met November 9, 2021:

- MAVEN Updates
- CTC Timeline Reminder
- **Care Resource Coordination (CRC) Presentation from the CTC**
 - Community Resource Guides will be available this month
 - Reach out to your Local Health Liaison for more information
 - Upcoming MAVEN Webinar on Building Trust
- **Reimbursement for interpreter services**
 - [http://www.maventrainingsite.com/mavenhelp/pdf/LBOH%20Translation%20Services Ver%203.0 July 2021.pdf](http://www.maventrainingsite.com/mavenhelp/pdf/LBOH%20Translation%20Services%20Ver%203.0%20July%202021.pdf)
- Your FAQs

Part ONE: COVID-19 Basics (Oct. 5, 2021)

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Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation (Oct. 12, 2021)

- [Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Slides](#)
- [Part TWO: COVID-19 Labs & Case Investigation Recording](#)



Always Remember you can see all previous webinar recordings and slides in MAVEN Help.



Before & After School Programming

- **DESE & EEC had a joint webinar** on Friday, November 12th to discuss an update to Test and Stay programming.
- The presentation clarified that **Test and Stay has been expanded and may now include Before & After school programming in the k-12 setting if school districts wish to take advantage of this benefits extension.**
 - [Test & Stay: Coordination Between School Districts and Out of School Time Programs, November 12, 2021 PowerPoint Presentation.](#)
 - [Memo from EEC, DPH, and DESE about Test and Stay Program Coordination with Out of School Time Programs, November 12, 2021.](#)

New Test & Stay Extension to Before & After School Programs

- **Test & Stay is now extended to included students of EEC-licensed Before and After-School Programs.**
 - ****Note that this only applies to EEC-licensed Before and After-School (referred to as Out of School Time (OST)) programs. It does not apply to non-school related EEC programs or non-EEC OST Programs.**
 - (So there is no Test and Stay at this time for Daycares)
- **Some highlights here**
 - It is "bi-directional" meaning if a student is exposed in their OST program, they can continue to attend school as a Test and Stay student OR if a student is exposed in school, they can continue to attend their OST program so long as they comply with Test and Stay.
 - This applies to both on-site and off-site OST Programs - they do not have to be physically located at the school.
 - The OST Program is not expected to be the one performing the testing. The student should be tested through the school and the school and OST Program should be sharing information regarding test results and close contacts both at school and the OST Program.

Childcare Settings (EEC Guidance)

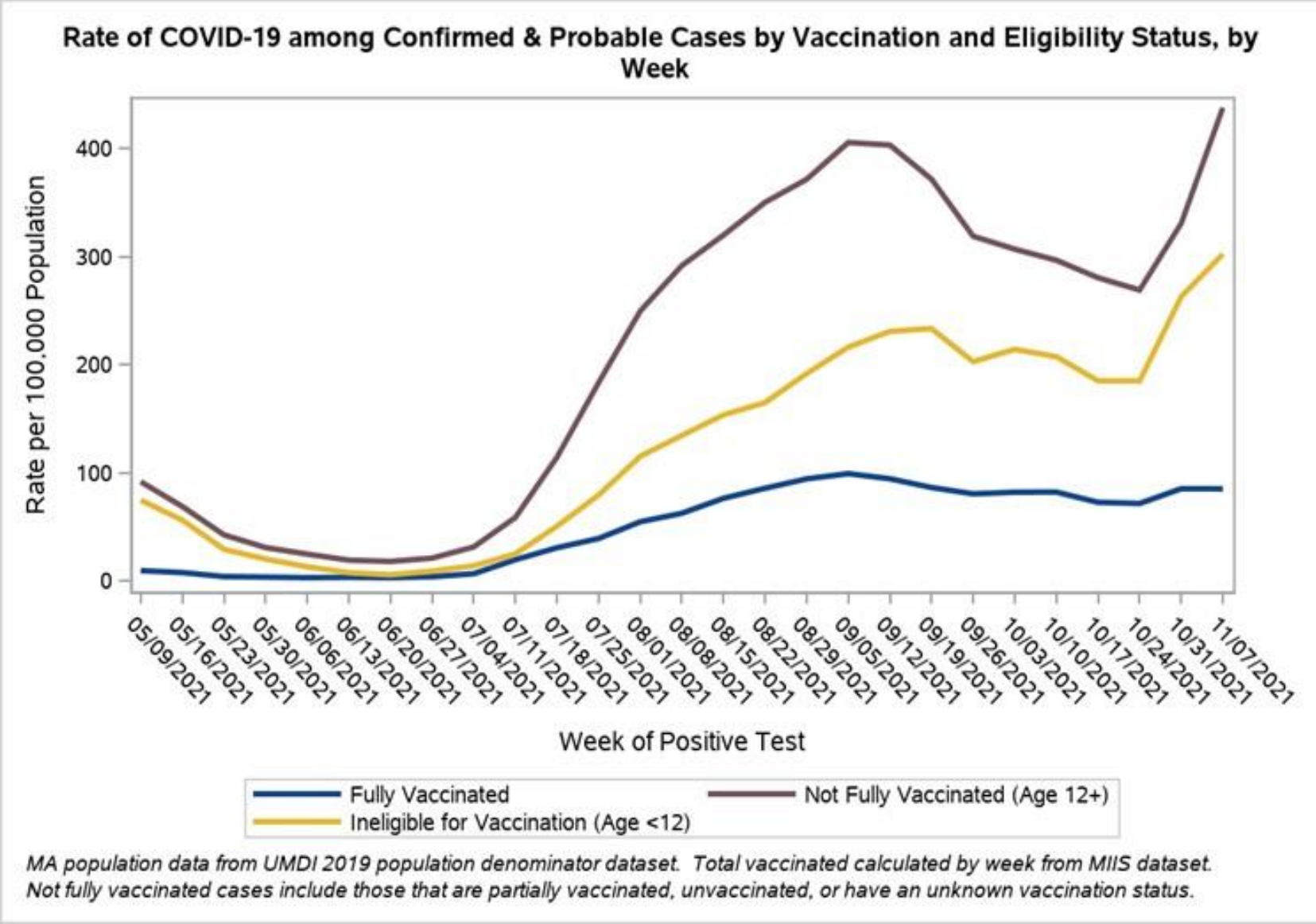
- **Q: What COVID-19 resources are still available to programs?**
 - **A.** The following COVID-19 resources continue to be available to programs:
 - PPE: [No-cost PPE](#) will continue to be available through the summer for licensed programs.
 - Testing: [No-cost COVID-19 testing](#) for childcare staff, children, and families remains available throughout the Commonwealth.
 - [Weekly Pooled Testing](#) for Covid-19 screening is available to licensed Massachusetts early education and care and OST programs at no cost.
- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing-for-child-care>

Taking a moment to note some vaccine milestones



I've got 99 problems
but smallpox,
polio, diphtheria,
tetanus, measles,
mumps, rubella,
pertussis, rotavirus,
H. influenza, varicella
and hepatitis
ain't one

COVID Breakthrough Data through 11/13/2021



The 5-11 year-old age group will be eligible to be a breakthrough case after 12/7/21.

Identifying Breakthrough Cases

- **Breakthrough cases are determined through the information in a case's MAVEN event.**
 - Vaccination Dates in the Vaccine Question Package
 - The Date of the relevant Lab Test (from the Lab Tab)
- **There are a few data sources for gathering vaccination information into MAVEN.**
 - **Perfect Auto-Match with Record in MIIS:** There is a query into MIIS for all COVID events (cases and contacts) to see if a vaccination record exists. Then the vaccine info will be pulled into the MAVEN event.
 - This is limited to the computer algorithm, so may not be identified as a match.
 - **Data Entry into the MAVEN event by you:**
 - Vaccine data from interview, call to medical provider, vaccine documentation from case, patient recall, etc.
- **Correctly documented and timed breakthrough cases are identified from MAVEN.**

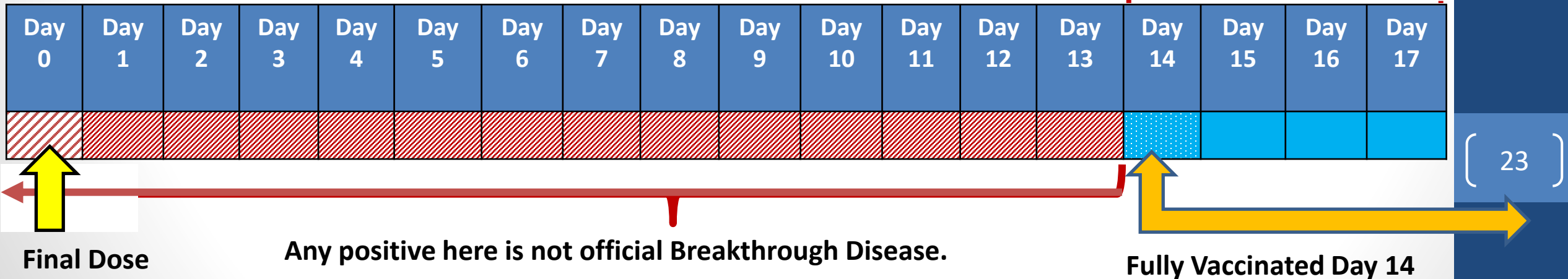
Cases After Being Fully Vaccinated



- **Breakthrough Disease** is any positive test obtained Day 14 or later following the final dose in a vaccine series.
- **Note:** Vaccination will not make you test positive. If you test positive, even if you are fully vaccinated, you are a case. You will need to isolate.

Positive
Cases

Cases of Breakthrough
Disease are positive tests
from Day 14 or after.



Documenting Vaccination Among Cases

So Important!!!

- Please complete the **Vaccine Question Package** in MAVEN to track vaccination history data.
- Ask your cases if they have been vaccinated and complete the Vaccine Question Package questions.
 - You can also check MIIS.
- This information will be very important as we track cases going forward.

4. Vaccine and IG Information - Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)

Vaccine
Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
Add New

Dose Date
01/20/2021

Manufacturer
Moderna US, Inc.

Lot#
12345678910

Vaccine Information Source:
Patient or parent's written record

Was subject vaccinated as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)?
Yes

Complete if patient is unvaccinated, did not complete series, and/or was not vaccinated in accordance with ACIP recommendations:

If not vaccinated, why not received?

Save Save & Stay Cancel Help

AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine
Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
No vaccine administered
Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine
Unspecified COVID-19 vaccine
Vaccination history unknown

Documenting Vaccination Among Cases

If not vaccinated, why not received?

- **Missed Opportunity**
 - They didn't go back for their second dose.
 - Haven't gotten around to it.
- **Patient/Parent Refusal**
- **Philosophical Objection**
- **Religious Objection**
- **Underage**
 - Select if <12 yrs

Question Package #4 - Vaccine and IG Information

Vaccine
No vaccine administered ▼

Add New

Vaccine Information Source:
Patient or parent's recall ▼

Was subject vaccinated as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)?
Yes ▼

Complete if patient is unvaccinated, did not complete series, and/or was not vaccinated in accordance with ACIP recommendation

If not vaccinated, why not received?
Under age ▼

Foreign Visitor
Immigrant
Medical contraindication
Missed opportunity in medical setting
Other
Parent/Patient forgot to vaccinate
Parent/Patient refusal
Parent/Patient unaware of recommendation
Parent/patient report of previous disease
Philosophical objection
Religious exemption
Under age
Unknown
Vaccine not available

NOT VACCINATED is just as important to be SURE to document (Select **No Vaccine Administered**). Otherwise we don't know if the person is not vaccinated or just never was asked.

Documenting Vaccination Among Cases

- If they have an **international vaccine** that is not listed, select **Unspecified COVID-19 Vaccine** and complete the info as a text entry.

Vaccine

Unspecified COVID-19 vaccine

Dose Date

03/05/2021

Manufacturer

Other

Other (specify):

4. Vaccine and IG Information - Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)

Vaccine

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

+ Add New

Dose Date

01/20/2021

Manufacturer

Moderna US, Inc.

Lot#

12345678910

Vaccine Information Source:

Patient or parent's written record

Was subject vaccinated as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)?

Yes

Complete if patient is unvaccinated, did not complete series, and/or was not vaccinated in accordance with ACIP recommendations:

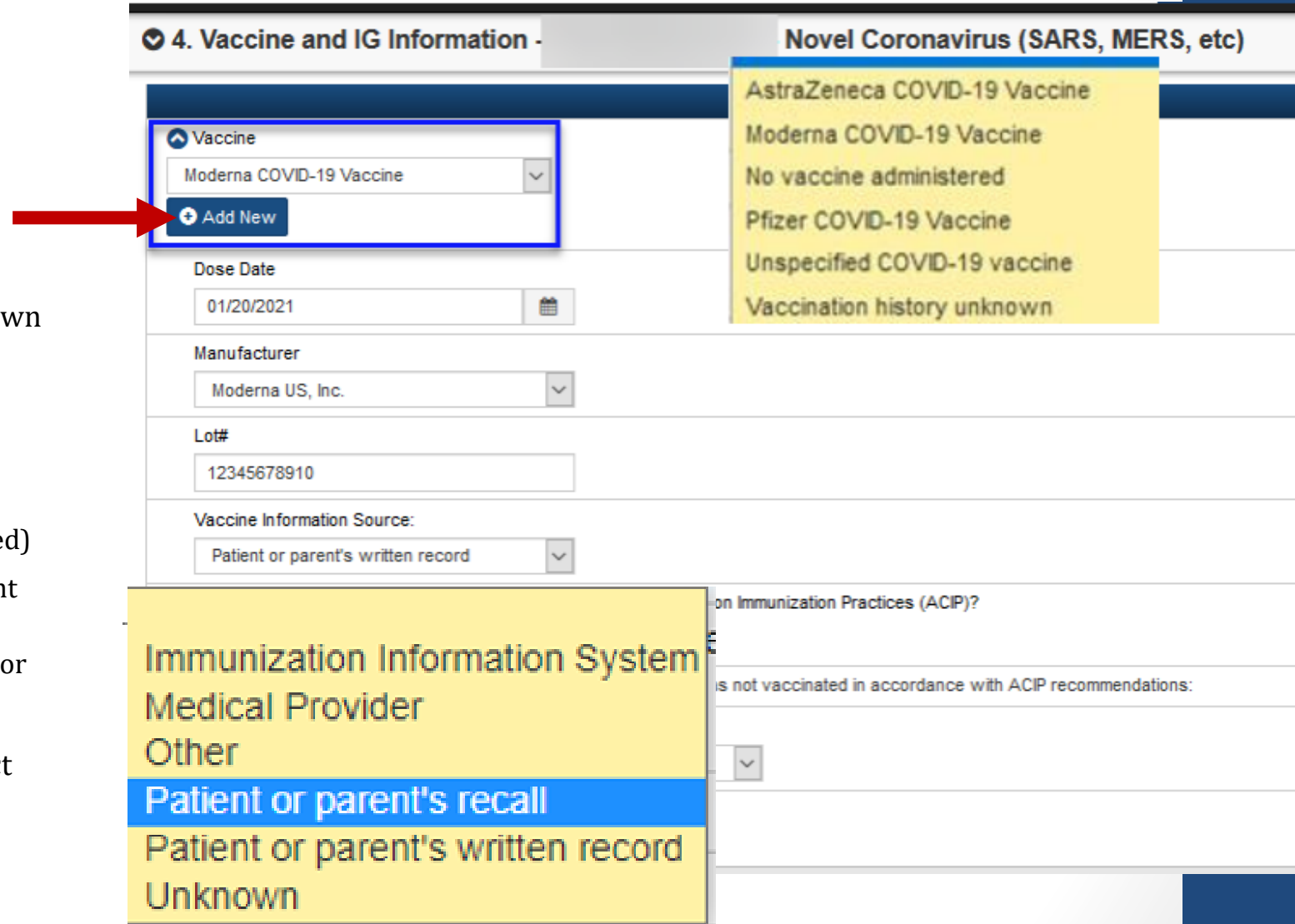
If not vaccinated, why not received?

Save Save & Stay Cancel Help

AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine
Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
No vaccine administered
Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine
Unspecified COVID-19 vaccine
Vaccination history unknown

Documenting Vaccination Among Cases

- **Vaccine** – repeatable field for multiple doses (just click Add New).
 - **Dose Date:** add date administered.
 - **Manufacturer:** select appropriate or Unknown
 - **Lot #:** if you have it, please enter it. (Again check MIIS)
 - **Vaccine Information Source:**
 - **Patient Recall** (from memory – not verified)
 - **Written Record** (vaccine card or document from patient)
 - **Medical Provider** (confirmed via written or verbal report or call w/ provider)
 - If patient says they weren't vaccinated, select Patient or Parent's recall as source.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "4. Vaccine and IG Information - Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)". A red arrow points to the "Add New" button in the "Vaccine" dropdown menu. The form contains the following fields:

- Vaccine:** A dropdown menu currently showing "Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine". A red arrow points to the "Add New" button below it.
- Dose Date:** A date input field showing "01/20/2021".
- Manufacturer:** A dropdown menu showing "Moderna US, Inc.".
- Lot#:** A text input field showing "12345678910".
- Vaccine Information Source:** A dropdown menu showing "Patient or parent's written record".

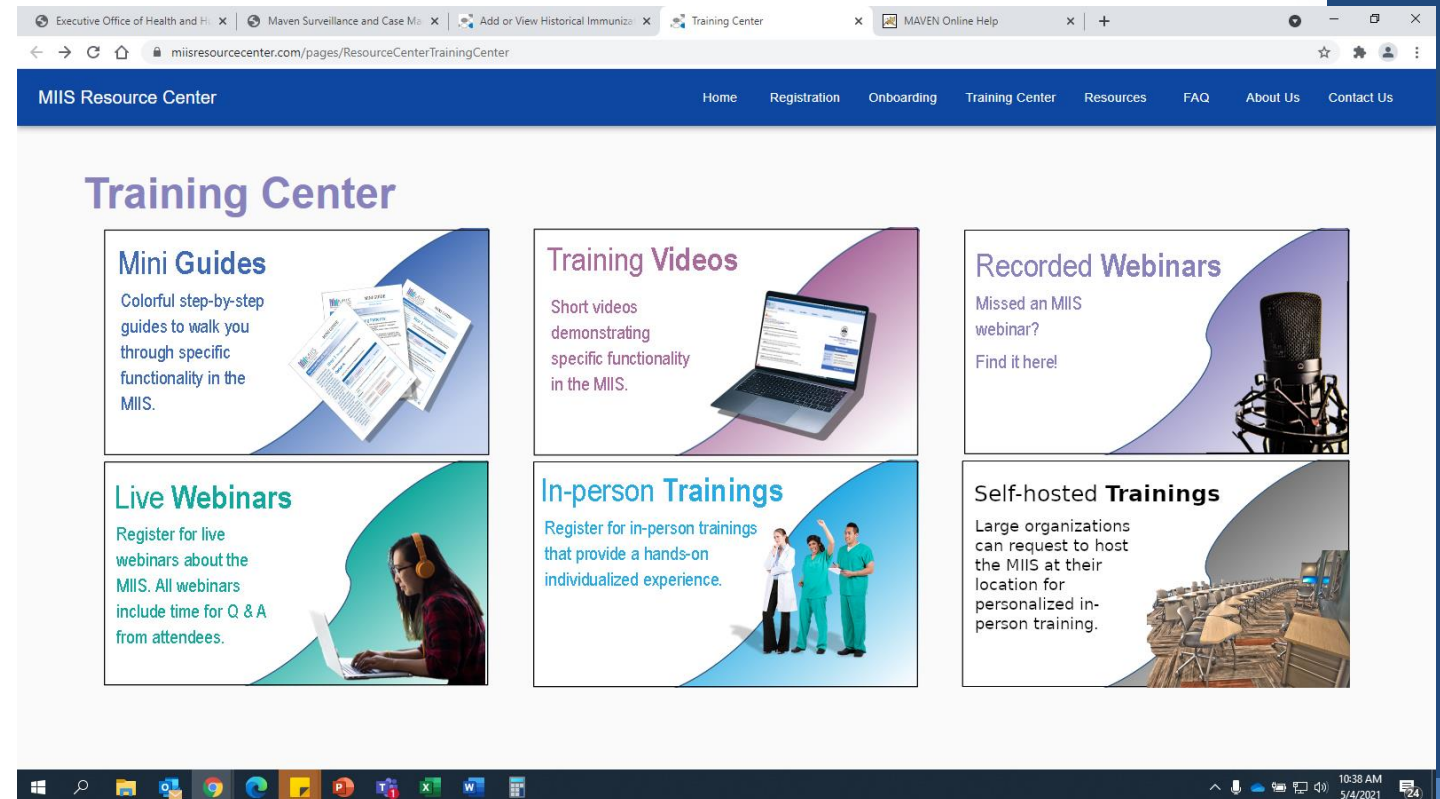
Two yellow callout boxes are present:

- Top Callout:** A list of vaccine options: AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, No vaccine administered, Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine, Unspecified COVID-19 vaccine, and Vaccination history unknown.
- Bottom Callout:** A list of vaccine information sources: Immunization Information System, Medical Provider, Other, Patient or parent's recall (highlighted in blue), Patient or parent's written record, and Unknown.

How do I onboard in MIIS?



- Please check MIIS for Vaccine Data on your case/contact. You will likely find a match more readily than the computer.
- You can review the onboarding process here:
 - <https://www.misresourcecenter.com/pages/ResourceCenterRegistration>



COVID-19 & Flu Vaccine Administration Timing

Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines

- COVID-19 vaccines **may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines**. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States](#)

MAVEN Reports

- You should be utilizing reports daily for your casework.
- You can also utilize reports to help determine data cleaning needs.

Maven Surveillance and Case Management System

Maven Reporting

Category: Custom Reports

Select Report:

Run Report

COVID-19 - line list of addresses with individual(s) under isolation for emergency responders CONFIDENTIAL

COVID-19 LBOH CTC Data Report

COVID-19 LBOH Confirmed and Probable Case line list Report

COVID-19 LBOH Contact line list Report

COVID-19 LBOH Requested Assistance Line List Report

Cluster/Outbreak Linelist

DGP - Event Information Extract by Disease (Excel, CSV)

DGP - LBOH Active Caseload

LBOH Basic Line List

LBOH Count - Events Per Disease and Classification in Jurisdiction

LBOH Event Information Extract by Disease (Excel, CSV)

LBOH Events by Time Period

LBOH Events by Week by Event Date

LBOH Reports

To run MAVEN Reports

Step 1: Navigate to the MAVEN Dashboard and click on **Reports** from the Menu options.

Step 2: A few reports you can use to manage your COVID cases/contacts are listed below -- select your report option for your town/city from Select Report dropdown.

Step 3: Enter **Start Date & End Date**

Step 4: Enter the Town/City you are running the report for. Some reports the user needs to manually enter the **Official City** field. **You need to enter in all caps**, for example -- "Lowell" needs to be entered as "LOWELL". Some reports you have to search first for your city/town and then select prior to running the report. **Step 5:** Click **Run Report** button.

Report output options: HTML (view on your screen/browser) and CSV (comma separate values). **Additional information around reports is located in the FAQ folder.**

1) COVID-19 LBOH Confirmed and Probable Case line list Report -- report runs on first positive specimen date for your confirmed & probable events/cases. Your city/town name must be in all CAPS. Limit the date parameter to 30 days. **Report runs on first positive specimen date**

Maven Reporting

Category: Custom Reports

Select Report: COVID-19 LBOH Confirmed and Probable Case line list Report

Description: COVID-19 Confirmed & Probable Case Line List "Your city/town name must be in all CAPS. Limit the date parameter to 30 days. Report runs on first positive specimen date"

Report Period: Date Range Period

Start Date: 06/01/2020 End Date: 06/31/2020

Official City: LOWELL

Report Classification status: Suspect Probable

Output Type: CSV

Run Report Dashboard Help

Ver 5.0 - September 21, 2021

maven

- [Tip Sheet](#) with running your top 7 MAVEN reports is here in MAVEN Help:

MAVEN Online Help

- [Expand all](#) [Collapse all](#)
- COVID-19 Materials/Training
 - Case Follow-Up Tools
 - Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC)
 - Clusters/Outbreaks **NEW**
 - Daycare/Childcare/K-12 School Resources/Sports
 - Guidance Documents & Resources
 - Higher Education/Boarding Schools
 - MAVEN Tipsheets & General Instructions
 - Bulk Action Process Instructions for Workflows_COVID Assistance to YES_Dec22
 - MAVEN Higher Ed Boarding School Cluster Tip Sheet_ver1.0_Sept04
 - Creating Cluster Events in MAVEN Tip Sheet_ver1.0_Sept4
 - How to link two existing cases in MAVEN?
 - Contact Event Data Cleaning_ver1.0_June5
 - LBOH Line List for Emergency Responders_ver3.0_May22
 - LBOH COVID-19 Report Tip Sheet_ver5.0_September2021 **NEW**
 - LBOH COVID-19 LBOH COVID-19 Assistance to No_ver1.0_May9
 - LBOH COVID-19 Cluster Outbreak Line List Report Tip Sheet_ver1.0_May5

Last Tuesday on the 3:00 pm Interagency Call...

CTC and Contact Tracing Transition

Jana Ferguson and Dr. Katie Brown, DPH

Where We Were and Where We Are

- March 2020
 - New disease
 - No pre-existing immunity
 - No specific prevention or treatment
 - Unknown spectrum of disease
 - Unknown transmission
 - Limited testing capacity
 - No Vaccine
- November 2021
 - Going to be living with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future
 - Vaccines widely available with strong uptake across the Commonwealth, monoclonal antibodies available
 - Widespread free testing, variety of in-home testing options available
 - Known high risk individuals
 - Transmission through droplet and aerosol, close contact settings increase spread

CTC Transition Timeline Reminder

- As the state continues to evolve in its response to the pandemic, the state's contract with CTC will formally end at the close of the calendar year.
- Local health departments and the Department of Public Health will resume full responsibility for case investigations and any appropriate contact tracing activity - as they do with other infectious diseases.
 - The CTC will cease taking new case referrals on November 30, 2021.
 - CTC case work will be completed for referred cases by December 17, 2021.
 - Local Health Liaisons will be available through the end of December.

Finishing Out 2021...

Case Investigations and Contact Tracing moving through December 2021

- Given the changed landscape of COVID-19 in MA, contact tracing should be focused to certain settings. Starting now and through December, the CTC and local health departments may scale down their efforts to reach cases and contact by placing only one call per case and contact and eliminating follow-up calls.
- The CTC and local health will still need to convey isolation and quarantine instructions and indicate the local health department is available for more information or for requests for support with isolation or quarantine.

Looking to January 2022...

Case Investigations and Contact Tracing Starting January 2022

- Beginning January 2022, DPH and local health departments may prioritize case investigation and contact tracing in certain settings:
 - Healthcare facilities including SNFs and LTCF – (DPH lead)
 - Large congregate settings such as shelters, corrections – (DPH lead)
 - EEC programs – (DPH and LBOH support)
 - K-12 schools – (LBOH in cooperation with schools)
 - Higher Education – (LBOH in cooperation with facility health services)
 - Disease Clusters – (LBOH in cooperation with DPH)
- We will continue to monitor data to re-prioritize case investigation and contact tracing efforts to other settings as necessary.

Tools in our pocket...

Continue to Promote Effective Public Health Tools

- Vaccines and authorized boosters.
- Widespread testing, including OTC tests for even mild symptoms and following known exposures, including for vaccinated people.
- People at risk for moderate to severe disease from COVID-19 should contact their healthcare providers promptly at diagnosis about potential therapeutic options including monoclonal antibodies.
- Recommend general use of masks by people who are unvaccinated, immune-compromised, and where required by local governments and individual institutions and businesses.
- MassNotify and its use.
- Guidance around isolation/quarantine in case of infection or close contact.
- Support those in isolation or quarantine where needed (e.g, food security, alternative shelter).

Preparing for COVID Response:

Increasing Local Capacity

1. Onboard and train new staff per recent funding opportunities.
2. Identify volunteers and/or part time staff through:
 - Medical Reserve Corps
 - Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps
 - **Tool for Success:** Prioritize the hours you want coverage assistance up front. This will help in identifying consistent and reliable volunteers. For example, if Mondays are the most challenging due to new cases from the weekend, specify in your request Monday coverage to help work through Monday's caseload.
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/academic-health-department-academic-public-health-volunteer-corps>
3. **Consider onboarding school nurses to MAVEN to assist with <18 cases in the school setting.** This will help with confirming results and quickly identifying in-school follow-up actions. This may also be helpful for future non-COVID classroom investigations such as pertussis, varicella, mumps, etc.
4. **Partner with surrounding towns to ensure coverage during staff vacations and other leave.**

What are you doing RIGHT NOW to increase local capacity? If you don't know, ASK.

Funding Opportunities – TAKE ADVANTAGE

MDPH Office of Local and Regional Health

- **Re-opening of the Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services - Request for Responses**

The Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announces the re-opening of the Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services RFR. OLRH seeks proposals from qualified vendors to support public health cross-jurisdictional shared-service arrangements. For more information about the RFR on Commbuys, click [here](#).

- <https://www.commbuys.com/bsa/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-22-1031-ADMIN-ADM07-68243&external=true&parentUrl=close>
- Responses should be submitted electronically only via email to Rachael.cain2@mass.gov by **December 3, 2021, at 12:00PM**.

Funding Opportunities – TAKE ADVANTAGE

MA State Office of Rural Health

- **Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative (VEI)**

A new funding opportunity has been released to provide direct funding and support Massachusetts' rural communities to meet immediate needs for COVID 19 mitigation and implement long-range strategies to ensure resiliency from the factors that created poor outcomes during the COVID19 pandemic. Funding is for three years. Click [here](#) to read more about this opportunity and how to apply.

- Applications must be submitted through the online portal by **Monday, November 29th 2021 at 5:00 PM EST**. The online portal can be found at: <https://nerha.memberclicks.net/cbo-application>
 - Any questions should be directed to admin@newenglandrha.org by Friday, November 19th 2021 at 5:00 PM EST.
 - All submitted questions and answers will be posted on the online application portal by Monday, November 22nd 2021 at 5:00PM EST. We will not entertain questions after Friday, November 19th .

Things in the Pipeline... stay tuned...

- Updates to identify critical variables in the case interview.
- Targeted trainings and resources in MAVEN Help.
- More sample templates, letters, and scripts.
- Updated tools and tips for Childcare follow-up.
- More streamlined COVID-19 online resources for the public.

Our Questions for You

- **What kind of templates would be helpful for you?**
- **What topics or success stories would you like to hear more about from your peers?**
- **Do you have new staff onboarding now or in the near future?**
- **What are your anticipated needs?**

