



150 YEARS  
OF ADVANCING  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH



June 21, 2022

Dear Superintendents and Executive Directors of Approved Special Education Schools, Charter Schools and Education Collaboratives:

Now that COVID-19 vaccinations are approved for children 6 months to 5 years, we are writing to provide you with the latest information and to strongly encourage daycares, schools, and local communities to take an active role in promoting and administering COVID-19 vaccinations for this age group.

It is our shared goal to keep all students in your classrooms, where we know the most effective learning takes place. Vaccines for children are an extremely important tool to help keep them healthy and achieve that goal. The COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be [safe and effective in preventing severe illness and hospitalization](#), and we are asking for your help to urge parents to get their youngest children vaccinated as the best way to protect themselves and our community.

We wanted to make you aware of opportunities and resources to achieve increased vaccination rates in younger children and offer some considerations in planning your approach.

### **Promotion and Parent Engagement**

Now is a good time to engage with parents to encourage vaccination and provide resources and information. We suggest:

- Sending a tailored version of the [attached template letter](#) to all parents/guardians
- Posting information about vaccine locations, vaccine safety information, and helpful Q&As (available at [www.mass.gov/covidvaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine)) to your **websites and message boards**
- **Meeting with parent groups or networks** to discuss ways to reach a parent audience

### **Mobile Vaccination Clinics**

- While many families will choose to have their young child vaccinated by their physician or health care provider, we are also making vaccination convenient and easy for busy families. As we have done previously, we are making it possible for schools to host on-site vaccination clinics once children 6 months to 5 years are eligible. Please visit [mass.gov/MobileVax](http://mass.gov/MobileVax) to learn about hosting a mobile clinic on site. Download the request form [here](#).

## Age-Specific Considerations

For 6 months to 5 years of age, there are a few considerations when planning outreach and vaccination:

- Pediatric Primary Care Providers are a good resource for parents in this age group for information and vaccination. School administrators may want to consider partnering with local pediatricians to invite them to attend meetings or to sign onto communications.
- If holding a clinic, schedule immediately before or after school drop-off, in the evening, or on weekends to make it most convenient for busy families.

As we move forward together to increase COVID-19 vaccination in Massachusetts and encourage vaccination among this youngest age group, we welcome your support and involvement in these vaccination efforts. We continue to urge all school personnel and students to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and our communities.

We appreciate your assistance to keep all of our faculty, staff, volunteers, and young children safe and healthy this fall and all year long. Please contact the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with any questions.

Margret R. Cooke  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education