

Updated 2/5/21

Brookline Council on Aging COVID-19 Vaccine Update

93 Winchester St.
Brookline, MA 02446
617-730-2770

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People aged 75 and older are now getting their vaccines along with first responders and healthcare workers as Phase 2 of the State's vaccine rollout began on February 1st. Registration is done online right now and there is an increase in available appointments since the registration began last week. Locally, Fenway Park and the Reggie Lewis Center both have available appointments. Appointments continue to be added, so check back frequently. To schedule an appointment online, visit www.mass.gov/covidvaccinelocations

****NEW****

Beth Israel Lahey Health | BIDMC of Boston (BI), and Mass General Brigham have started to reach out directly to their patients regarding vaccine clinics. These are only for their patients, and you should receive information directly from your healthcare provider if you are eligible.

Call 2-1-1 and follow the prompts to reach The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line. Hours of Operation are **Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM**. The resource line does not have its own set of appointments. Due to extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, it may take days to secure an available appointment in your area. **This line is only for those who do not have internet access to book an appointment online.**

SCAM ALERT- NEVER give out your social security number or credit card information. Unfortunately, scam sites are popping up in Google searches for the vaccine registration site. **If you are asked for your social security number, credit card information, or to pay a fee, you are on the wrong site.**

More Vaccines are Coming

More locations, and phases for additional age groups, will open up in the weeks ahead, as more vaccines are made available. Please ask your families or friends who are computer-savvy to assist you with scheduling an appointment. If you do not have access to a computer or have questions about the process, you can contact the Brookline Senior Center at (617) 730-2770 or info@brooklineseniorcenter.org but please note that we have the same online access as everyone else. It may take several weeks to get an appointment at a location near you.

Is there a cost and do I have to have insurance?

There is no cost for a vaccination, and if you do not have insurance, you are still eligible to sign up and receive a vaccination. **If you are asked for a credit card or a fee, you are on the wrong website.**

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I am a Veteran- is there another way to get a vaccine appointment?

The VA has been reaching out to Veterans, but please call your VA primary care for information about the VA Health System and what they are providing to Veterans who meet specific criteria.

For More Information: www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/

Become a Patient: www.boston.va.gov/patients/eligibility.asp

Are there vaccinations available in Brookline?

Not at this time. As more sites are opened and more vaccines are made available, be assured that you WILL be able to get a vaccine. Brookline does not have a clinic scheduled for senior citizens at this time, but the Health Department is working on a plan to open a local clinic once they know that the Town will be receiving vaccines. We will share that information when it is available.

To be placed on the Brookline Health Department list, you can call the COVID-19 call center at 617-879-5636 or email vaccine@brooklinema.gov. For more information on the vaccine in Brookline, visit <https://brooklinecovid19.com/vaccinefaq>

How do I get I get a ride to a vaccination appointment?

For Brookline seniors, there is transportation available. Contact TRIPPS Coordinator Maria Foster at mfoster@brooklinema.gov or call 617-730-2644.

Will the Brookline Housing Authority be offering vaccination clinics?

Yes- the BHA in cooperation with the Brookline Health Department will have vaccination clinics at the senior housing sites. For updated information, visit <https://www.brooklinehousing.org/covid19-response>

So, where do I go for more information?

Information about the Commonwealth's vaccination sites, eligibility, and registration information can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>.

Additional Helpful Information:

- In Massachusetts, **Wegmans Pharmacy** was selected by the state to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to individuals eligible in Phase 1.

Scheduling an Appointment:

- All vaccine scheduling should be done online at wegmans.com/pharmacy. You do not need to have a Wegmans online account to sign up for a vaccination. Please have your insurance card available when scheduling your appointment.
- **Customers without a computer can schedule a vaccine by calling 1-800-207-6099, Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Please have your insurance card available when scheduling your appointment. This line will only be active when appointments are

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available.

-Running through May, **Temple Israel** will be partnering with Beth Israel Lahey Health (BI) for their patients to receive their COVID-19 vaccine in the building Monday-Friday.

- BI will be assigning appointments to their patient population only, as they continue to follow state guidelines for vaccine rollout.
- Temple Israel will not be a mass vaccination site, nor will it be open to the public for walk-in vaccination.

And Please Remember!

We are still in a pandemic! Keep your distance from others. Wear your masks and wash your hands. The vaccine is 2 doses, spread weeks apart. We must keep vigilant about keeping ourselves and others safe. We're all in this together.