

## COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

**December 15, 2020:**

The Town of Mansfield continues its community update on our website with our up to date information and important tips for the public as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more complete information, please see the town [coronavirus webpage](#).

- **As of today, please see the below chart that represents our communities COVID-19 relates cases:**

<i>Mansfield Covid-19 Workflow</i>	#	
Positive COVID-19 under isolation	<b>128</b>	(updated 12/15 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	<b>465</b>	
Total tested positive since beginning:	<b>612</b>	
Mansfield Community Designation Level	<b>Red</b>	Red-higher risk Yellow- moderate risk Green- lower risk
Covid-19 Related Deaths	<b>19</b>	Last Covid death in Mansfield 12/07/20



- **Winter Holidays**

The safest way to celebrate winter holidays is to celebrate at home with the people who live with you. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.

[Travel](#) and [gatherings](#) with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#).

### **Everyone Can Make Winter Holiday Celebrations Safer**

#### Wear a mask

- Wear a mask with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19 to protect others and yourself.
- Wear your [mask](#) over your nose and mouth, secure it under your chin, and make sure it fits snugly against the sides of your face.
- Wear a mask indoors and outdoors.
- In cold weather, [wear your mask](#) under your scarf, ski mask, or balaclava.
- Keep a spare mask in case your mask becomes wet from moisture in your breath or from snow or rain.

#### Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you

- Indoors or outdoors, you are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when you are in [close contact](#) with others for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Remember that people without symptoms or with a recent negative test result can still spread COVID-19 to others.

#### Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated indoor spaces

- As much as possible, avoid crowds and indoors spaces that do not offer fresh air from the outdoors as much as possible. If indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible.

#### Wash your hands

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing and before eating.
  - Make sure to dry your hands completely using a clean towel or by air drying.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a [hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose, and mouth.

#### Get a flu shot as soon as possible

- The [flu shot](#) can help protect you and your family, friends, and community from getting and spreading flu.
- By getting a flu shot, you can also help lower hospital visits and serious health problems from flu.

### **Safer Celebrations**

Celebrating virtually or with the people you live with is the safest choice this winter. If you do gather with people who don't live with you, gatherings and activities held outdoors are safer than indoor gatherings.

### Attending a Winter Holiday Celebration

In addition to following the steps that everyone can take to make the holidays safer, take these additional steps if attending a gathering to make your celebration safer:

- Have conversations with the host ahead of time to understand expectations for celebrating together.
- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, utensils, and condiment packets.
- Wear a mask indoors and outdoors.
- Avoid shouting or singing.
- Stay home if you are sick or have been near someone who thinks they may have or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- It's okay if you decide to stay home and remain apart from others. [Do what's best for you.](#)

### Hosting a Winter Holiday Celebration

If you choose to have guests at your home, make sure that everyone follows the steps to make holiday celebrations safer. Other ways you can make your celebration safer include:

- Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together.
- Limit the number of guests.
- Have a small, [outdoor celebration](#) with family and friends who live in your community, weather-permitting.
- Have extra unused masks available for your guests and encourage everyone to wear them inside and outside.
- [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces and items between use.
- If celebrating indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible. You can use a window fan in one of the open windows to blow air out of the window. This will pull fresh air in through the other open windows.
- Have a separate space for guests to wash their hands or provide hand sanitizer.
- Keep background music volume low so guests don't need to shout.
- Cancel your gathering if you or someone who lives with you is sick or has been near someone who thinks they have or has COVID-19.
- It's okay if you decide to postpone or cancel your gathering. [Do what's best for you.](#)

### Food and Drink at Holiday Celebrations

When it comes to winter holidays, food traditions are often an important part of celebrations. There is no evidence that handling or eating food spreads COVID-19, but it is always important to follow [food safety practices](#). Also make sure to:

- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, and utensils.
- Avoid going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen.
- Use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets, and disposable items like food containers, plates, and utensils.
- Use a touchless garbage can, if available.

## Consider Other Winter Holiday Activities

The safest way to celebrate winter holidays is to celebrate at home with the people you live with. Here are some ideas for celebrating the winter holidays safely.

Host a virtual celebration with friends and family

- Schedule a time to eat a meal together virtually and have people show their main dish, vegetable, or dessert.
- Host a virtual “ugly” holiday sweater contest.

Gather virtually for a gift exchange or activity

- Schedule a time to meet virtually to open gifts together.
- Build gingerbread houses, decorate cookies, or make holiday crafts and decorations.

Decorate for the season

- Decorate or create a winter holiday scene and take family photos at home.
- Drive or walk around your community to look at decorations from a safe distance or drive through a local holiday light display.
- Make holiday crafts, cards, or cookies to send or deliver to family, friends, and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others, such as leaving them at the door.

Throw a virtual dance party

- For winter holidays that traditionally include music and dance, set aside time with loved ones to meet online to share music and dance.
- Collaborate with friends and family on a holiday playlist.

Enjoy the winter weather, if you live somewhere with snow

- Hold a snowman or snow angel contest with neighbors or friends in your community.
- Build a snow fort or other snow structure.

Volunteer and help others in need

- Reach out to your local community service organizations to get involved and give back. Make sure to ask about their safety precautions in advance.
- Find virtual opportunities to contribute.

Attend a religious ceremony

- CDC offers considerations to help [communities of faith](#) decide how best to practice their beliefs while keeping their staff and congregations safe.
- Attending virtual services is the safest way to worship.

If your holiday traditions usually involve visiting Santa Claus, check local opportunities and know requirements for visiting safely.

- Schedule a virtual visit to the North Pole.
- Visit Santa Claus outside while wearing a mask and staying 6 feet apart.

- If Santa Claus is staying indoors, he will likely be taking safety measures; you may be able to visit him through a plexiglass safety window.

- **Vaccine Distribution**

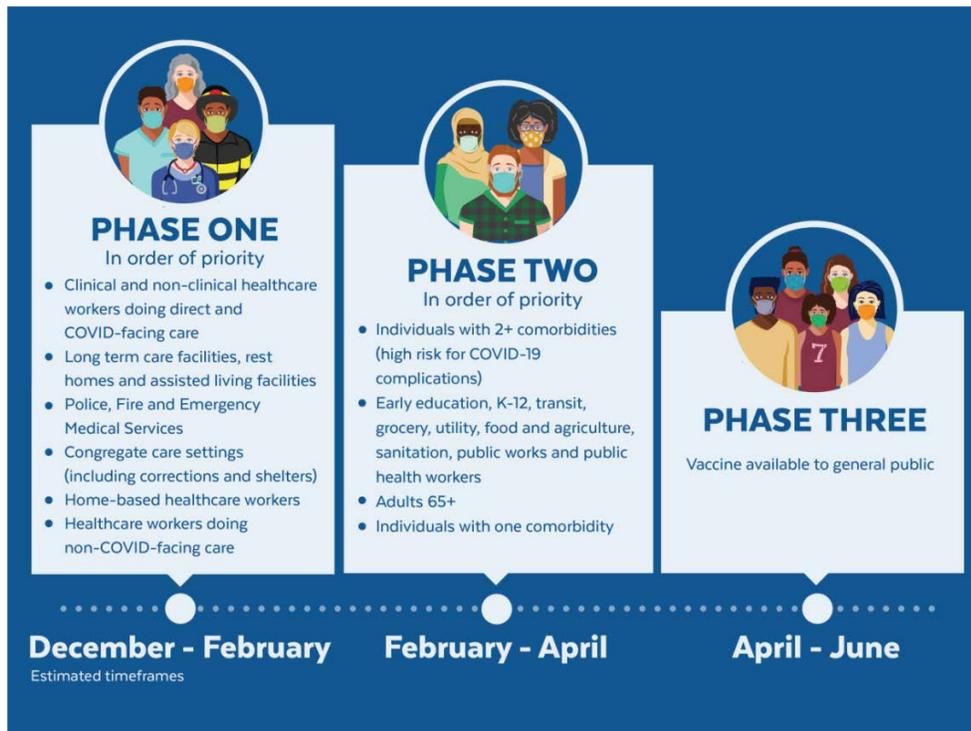
Massachusetts is preparing for the safe, equitable, and effective delivery of an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine. You can learn about the approach and when you can expect to get vaccinated at the [COVID-19 Vaccine in Massachusetts webpage](#).

Common questions about Massachusetts’ planning and preparation for a COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#).

The Baker-Polito Administration and the Department of Public Health developed a vaccine distribution timeline after extensive consultation with the [Massachusetts Vaccine Advisory Group](#), made up of leaders from health care, the faith community, community organizations, local government, and others.

The timeline reflects several priorities: protecting our most vulnerable, maintaining health care system capacity, and addressing inequities in health care access and COVID-19 burden.

Vaccine distribution in MA will occur in a phased approach:



More information about the vaccine distribution timeline can be found [here](#).