

Vaccination Clinics for Workplaces and Higher Education

April 26, 2021

Maine's COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy strives to balance efficiency with equity. It continues to support Maine Immunization Program (MIP) providers that provide high-throughput clinics. It also continues to support providers that offer special clinics for populations that are hard to reach or marginalized. This includes individuals who have elevated risks, such as individuals with a medical condition or disability that increases the risk for severe COVID-19, such as high-risk conditions identified by U.S. CDC; and those who live in marginalized, medically-underserved, and/or remote communities, including MaineCare members and those from racial and ethnic minority groups, sexual and gender minority groups, or tribal communities.

The State of Maine supports special, closed point-of-distribution (POD) clinics for workers, especially those with increased risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19. Such workers include but are not limited to: hospitality workers (e.g., restaurant, hotel, summer amusement workers); agricultural, seafood, and food processing workers; grocery store workers; and workers at sites where physical distancing is challenging (e.g., shipbuilding, construction, transportation, public benefits workers). MIP providers may work with employers or industry groups directly to arrange for such clinics. At this time, MIP has limited ability to allocate additional or specific types of vaccine doses to such clinics, so providers should consider how such clinics may be accommodated with their regular supply.

Maine is also removing the limitation on special clinics for students in higher education that was described in April 5, 2021 guidance for vaccination of youth. Typical spring semesters end in mid-to late-May. As such, students may be leaving campus and, in many cases, moving to a different part of the state or nation. MIP providers may work with higher education institutions to offer special hours, on-site clinics, or other means of high-throughput vaccination of their students and staff. MIP has limited ability to allocate special doses to such clinics at this time, so providers should consider how such clinics may be accommodated with their regular supply.

As stated in previous guidance, providers are prohibited from providing doses of COVID-19 vaccine to any individual based on special relationships with the vaccine provider. This may include, for example, members of its board of directors or friends or family of the provider or their leadership. In addition, provision of doses where there is any financial or non-financial benefit that accrues to the provider from its administration of doses at special clinics outside of normal reimbursement for services) is prohibited.