Public Health Organizations Associated with BRPC

• Berkshire County Boards of Health Association (BCBOHA)
  • 90-year old professional organization for the local Boards of Health in Berkshire County
  • Training & education
  • Acts as the public health emergency preparedness coalition for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding and special projects from Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
  • BRPC is the fiscal host for BCBOHA’s emergency preparedness projects/funding and supplies all staff to BCBOHA

• Berkshire Public Health Alliance (Alliance)
  • 24 member municipalities
  • Members contract for inspectional services and public health nursing
  • Also apply for and manage grants on behalf of member communities
February - March 2020

• Late February 2020 - as the first US cases were announced, planning for an Isolation & Quarantine Training for local Boards of Health

• Saturday, March 7, 2020 - notified by BMC that they had a positive COVID case, and several outstanding tests that they expected to come back positive.

• First community spread in MA

• Public Health Nurse immediately began case investigation and contact tracing

• Started close collaboration with the hospital
  • Access to electronic med records
  • Access to test results
  • Vaccine delivery
MA Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN)

- Online infectious disease reporting system
- Required for all LBOH in MA
- Over 90 reportable diseases
- Public Health Nurse checks MAVEN daily, and follows-up as needed on infectious disease reports
- Prevention - not treatment. Goal is to keep anyone else from getting sick from the same source.
Although the use of MAVEN had been mandated for a decade or more in 2020, 4-5 municipalities in Berkshire County were still off-line.

In late March, Porchlight VNA went out of business, leaving another 6-7 towns uncovered.

Alliance Public Health Nursing Program started 2020 covering 10 municipalities, now covering 22.

Received emergency funding from DPH that allowed us to cover the extra towns until June 30 and to hire multiple back-up nurses.

Other than the Alliance, three other public health nurses - Pittsfield, CHARWS and Berkshire VNA (7 towns). All are in regular contact.
Contact Tracing

- Until recently, all Berkshire County cases were investigated & contact traced by the Public Health Nurses (March through December)
- One reason Berkshire County did well until November was the attention paid to local contact tracing, as well as close collaboration w/ BHS.
- Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) - state contract with Partners in Health for back-up contact tracing for any municipality that needed it.
- Lots of bumps the road, but currently seem to be operating well
- To concentrate on vaccination efforts, we are currently sending most cases to the CTC for contact tracing (last several weeks)
- Still paying attention to schools, long-term care, business clusters, etc.
Board of Health Enforcement

- Guidelines constantly changing & being interpreted
- Issued by multiple state agencies; not all in one place on MA.gov
- LBOH often hear about changing guidance at the same time as the general public or mere hours before
- BCBOHA/Alliance have a point person for LBOH/business questions.
- Weekly call with LBOH agents/staff to share information & allow collaboration among the staff with counterparts in the county.
Emergency Funding

• State DPH has provided a combination of state money & CARES Act money to local public health
• BRPC acted as conduit for the 24 municipalities in the Alliance & 5 unaffiliated municipalities (TTHD got separate $)
• Has allowed the hire of additional nurses, extensive BRPC staff time, supplies, personal protective gear for BOH, public information campaign.
COVID Case Reporting/Information


- This page also contains links to reports on cases in Elder Facilities, Corrections, and other state facilities. Link to weekly DPH report also found here, with municipal-specific data.

- Public Health Institute of Western MA has a county-specific dashboard for Western MA: [https://www.publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data](https://www.publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data)

- Johns Hopkins for national and global data: [https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/)
# DPH Daily Dashboard

## COVID-19 Interactive Data Dashboard

### Today at a Glance

#### Navigation
- Today’s Overview
- Overview Trends
- COVID-19 Cases
- COVID-19 Testing
- Hospitalization
- COVID-19 Deaths
- Higher Ed & LTCF
- Patient Breakdown
- City and Town
- Resources
- Data Archive

#### Cases
- **Confirmed Cases**
  - Today there were 3,987 new, confirmed cases reported bringing the total to 458,089 total confirmed cases.

- **Probable Cases**
  - Today, there were 527 new, probable cases reported bringing the total to 22,951 total probable cases.

- **Estimated Active Cases**
  - There are an estimated 90,154 currently active COVID-19 cases.

#### Testing
- **Tests Reported**
  - There were 82,567 new COVID-19 molecular tests reported, bringing the cumulative total to 12,536,712 tests.

- **Turn Around Time**
  - The current turn around time for a molecular test is 2.05 days.

- **Percent Positivity**
  - The 7-day average of percent positivity is 5.86%.

#### Hospitalizations
- **Hospitalizations**
  - There are 2,209 patients hospitalized for COVID-19.

- **ICU & Intubated Patients**
  - There are 444 patients in Intensive Care Units (ICU) and 299 patients are intubated.

- **Average Age of Patients**
  - The average age of patients who were hospitalized for COVID-19 was 71 years old.

#### Deaths
- **Confirmed Deaths**
  - There were 78 new, confirmed deaths reported. There have been 13,547 confirmed deaths in total.

- **Probable Deaths**
  - There were 2 new, probable deaths reported. There have been 282 probable deaths in total.
Western MA Dashboard
COVID VACCINATION IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY
WE ARE HERE

PHASE ONE
In order of priority
- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- First responders (EMS, Fire, Police)
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care

PHASE TWO
In order of priority
- Individuals with 2+ comorbidities and/or age 75+ (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
- Early education and K-12 workers, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Adults 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity

PHASE THREE
Vaccine available to general public

December - February
Estimated timeframes
February - April
April - June
To date:

- Roughly 6,000 Berkshire residents have been vaccinated, not including long-term care.
- More than 2,500 Phase 1 eligible individuals were vaccinated in seven mass vaccination clinics last week.
- Another 600+ today, plus 300-400 next Saturday.
- Berkshire County expects to be done with Phase 1 by some time next week.
- There are some hard-to-reach populations in Phase 1.
Collaboration and Coordination to Run Clinics

• Clinic Partners have included:
  • Berkshire County Boards of Health Association (overall coordination)
  • Pittsfield Health Department (vaccine storage/clinic management in central Berkshire)
  • Berkshire Public Health Alliance (clinical lead in central Berkshire)
  • Northern Berkshire EMS (clinic management w/ NA HD, NBREPC, north Berkshire)
  • Fairview Hospital (clinic management south Berkshire)
  • Berkshire Medical Center (clinic management, vaccine supply & overall coordination)
  • Law Enforcement / emergency mgmt. in Great Barrington, Pittsfield, N. Adams
  • County Ambulance (observation staffing)
  • Southern Berkshire EMS (observation staffing)
  • Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) (volunteer supply, acting as screeners, registration & scribes)
  • Public Health Planning Vaccination Planning Team
PrepMod

• Allows for on-line pre-registration, automatic billing and automatic data entry into Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS).

• Individual makes an appointment, inputs insurance info, indicates any health issues and signs consent form.

• Users are provided a link to the Emergency Use Information Form and can opt out of MIIS.

• User friendly & will make large clinics possible going forward.
Berkshire Health Systems, Berkshire County Boards of Health Association & CHP have proposed a coordinated model of vaccination to DPH

All Vaccine Providers in the County are believed to have signed off on this model
Under this model, BMC would act as a vaccine depot for all Berkshire vaccine providers:
- Allows County to receive Pfizer or Moderna vaccine
- Allows for one request & one allocation based on county needs
- Vaccine management / storage by the hospital
- Allows vaccine to be deployed where needed.
Mass Public Clinics

• Mass public clinics operate in north, south & central Berkshire County
  • Staffed by BHS, Public Health, EMS and volunteers
  • Allows for the use of PrepMod for registration, billing & MIIS
  • CHP mobile van would deliver vaccine to congregate care, senior and low-income housing, and other sites where residents cannot easily get to public clinics

• We believe we could deliver 15,000 vaccinations a week if vaccine were available and permission were given to move phases as soon as one was completed.

• This means we could vaccinate the entire county, including second doses, in less than 3 months.
Challenges

• Need the ok from DPH to move to the depot model. Currently all ordering and storing our own vaccine.

• Need permission from DPH to move to the next Phase as we are ready, without waiting for the rest of the state.

• Need a steady supply of vaccine
  • Cannot schedule clinics without guaranteed vaccine supply
  • It is no harder to run clinics for 500 people than it is for 200, but the latter takes a lot longer
Information about COVID Vaccination

• Berkshire County Hotline: 413-449-5575 - recorded message, changed weekly


• For more details: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-program

• DPH Weekly Vaccination Report, including:
  • Number of doses of vaccine shipped and administered;
  • Number of people vaccinated;
  • Vaccine distribution numbers by county;
  • Age and race/ethnicity breakdowns of those receiving vaccines; and
  • Vaccines administered by different types of providers

• Expect to start providing weekly Berkshire County #s to the Eagle for round-up column
THANK YOU!

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