

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

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PRESS RELEASE Health Department Makes Available Seasonal Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines

New Bedford, MA – The New Bedford Health Department is making influenza (flu) and COVID-19 vaccines available ahead of the holiday season.

Everyone 6 months and older is eligible for an updated 2023-24 COVID-19 vaccine and a seasonal flu vaccine. Contact the Health Department at 508-991-6199 to make an appointment or for more information. The Health Department is located in the Quest Center, 1213 Purchase St.

Flu Vaccines

The Health Department offers standard and high-dose flu vaccines onsite by appointment.

The Health Department also can visit homebound residents to give a flu shot, by appointment. Flu shots are free with an insurance card and \$10 without an insurance card.

Call the Health Department Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to schedule an appointment. Local pharmacies offering the influenza vaccine can be located by entering your zip code at <u>vaccines.gov</u>.

For additional information:

- Key Facts about Influenza (Flu) and Flu Vaccine
- Visit Flu.gov

COVID Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines are available to nearly all Massachusetts residents for little or no cost.

The Health Department offers the vaccine to qualifying individuals without insurance through the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Bridge Access Program. On-site and in-home appointments are available by calling the City Health Department.

Local pharmacies offering COVID-19 vaccines can be found by entering your zip code at <u>vaccines.gov.</u>

Additionally, homebound individuals can request an in-home vaccine appointment through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at (833) 983-0485 or online at MDPH CV-19 In-Home Vaccination Program.

For information about COVID-19 and influenza transmission in Massachusetts, visit <u>MA</u> Respiratory Illness Reporting.

The New Bedford Health Department addresses a broad scope of public health issues, including but not limited to substance misuse, tobacco control, disease prevention and response, and promotion of health and wellness services for everyone in New Bedford. The department's sanitarians enforce housing, food, and environmental health codes to protect people who live in the City's more than 40,000 housing units and patronize the City's nearly 700 permanent or temporary food establishments. The department also operates the Municipal Marine Lab at Fort Taber, which tests water quality at beaches and other public areas in New Bedford and southeastern Massachusetts.