



CONTACTS:

Arlington: Joan Roman, Public Information Officer, jroman@town.arlington.ma.us

Belmont: Patrice Garvin, Belmont Town Administrator, townadministrator@belmont-ma.gov

Lexington: Sean Dugan, Public Information Officer, sdugan@lexingtonma.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2021

Initial Regional First Responder Vaccination Clinics Wrap Up

Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington continue to advocate for more doses, continue partnership.

On February 10th, approximately 600 first responders from Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington received their second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. First responders include police, fire, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and support personnel, plus school nurses who are administering vaccinations and/or COVID-19 testing in school populations. The clinic was held at Arlington High School gymnasium.

The cooperation and collaboration between Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington has been very productive," said Kevin Kelley, Arlington's Fire Chief. "We can easily double or triple our capacity for vaccinations and hope the state increases our vaccination allotments so we can vaccinate more residents."

"We are grateful to Arlington for hosting these clinics and sharing their expertise along with Belmont," said Derek Sencabaugh, Lexington's Fire Chief. "We look forward to continuing to collaborate with our regional partners in order to get as many people vaccinated as possible and get to the new normal."

"The clinic that was set up in the Arlington High School gymnasium was very impressive," said Wayne Haley, Belmont's Acting Fire Chief. "I'd like to thank all the folks that have been working hard to administer the vaccine to our first responders. The volume of personnel that were vaccinated on Wednesday was really something to see."

The vaccine administered at these clinics follows the [MA COVID-19 vaccine distribution timeline](#). However, since the First Responder clinic on January 12th, which provided 600 doses of the vaccine, many municipalities -- including Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington -- have only received 100 doses per week. Making for a very slow vaccination rollout locally.

"Although the state is offering mass vaccination sites, a trip to Fenway Park or Gillette Stadium is more a journey for many of our seniors," said Christine Bongiorno, Arlington's Director of Health & Human Services. "Our goal continues to be able to expand our ability to offer larger vaccination clinics locally. With our regional partners and local legislators, we will continue to advocate to the state our need for more doses of the vaccine for local public health to distribute."

This priority group (first responders) was the first step for local public health departments to be able to administer the vaccine. Other priority groups listed in Phase 1 will be vaccinated through other programs as part of the state's plan.

- Most health care workers will be vaccinated at their place of employment.
- First responders can visit mass.gov/FirstResponderVaccine for COVID-19 vaccine locations and more information (local public health).
- Individuals living and working in long term care will be vaccinated as part of the [Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program](#).
- Vaccination for individuals in other congregate settings (e.g., group homes, shelters, corrections) will be coordinated by the management of those facilities.

For eligible Phase 1 and 2 priority groups, view the state's [COVID-19 Vaccination site map](#).



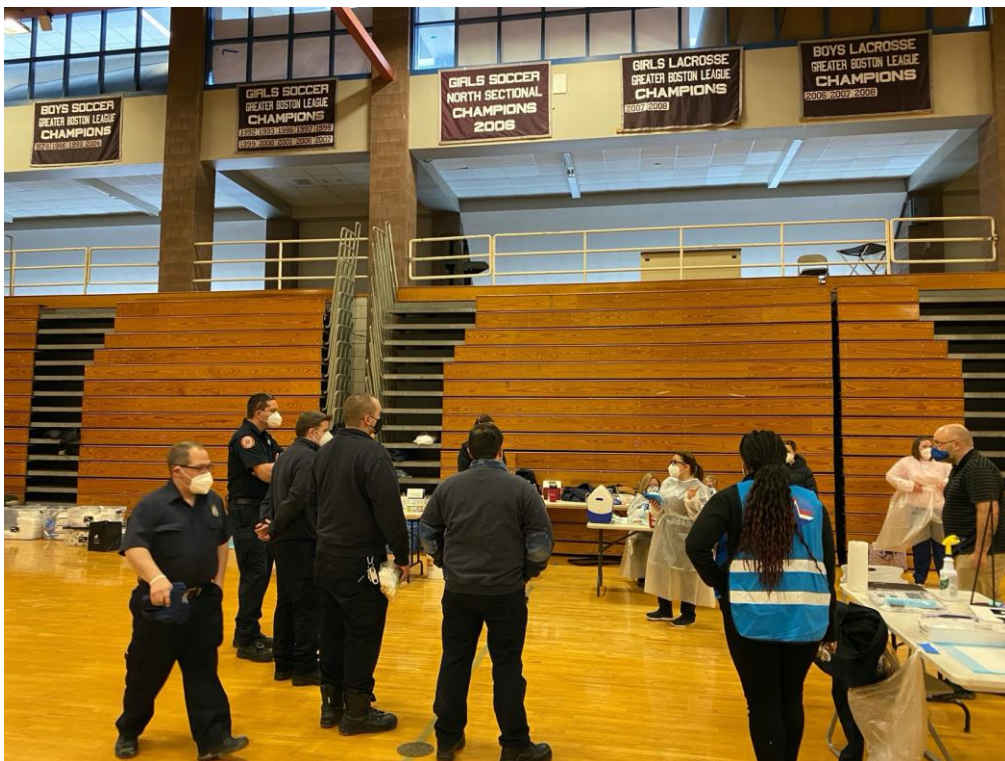
Belmont Health Director, Wesley Chin, MPH; Arlington Health Director, Natasha Waden; Lexington's Interim Health Director, Alan Perry.



Arlington Council on Aging Nurse Joanne Sliney, RN and Arlington Public Health Nurse Jessica Kerr prepare the Moderna vaccine.



Arlington Fire Chief Kevin Kelley, and Lexington Fire Chief Derek Sencabaugh



First responders and public health officials organize before the vaccination clinic opens.



Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington public health officials prepare Arlington High School gymnasium for a COVID-19 vaccination clinic.